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Iran-Iraq Conflict

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Iranian Decision—Iran's "historic and important" decision to accept a cease-fire was authorized by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in a written message that was discussed at a meeting of top leaders on 17 July, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani disclosed at a news conference broadcast by Tehran television.

The Majlis speaker and acting commander in chief of Iran's Armed Forces noted that the decision stemmed from "many things" which he "cannot explain for the time being because most of them concern military and political secrets." Contending that "there are no signs of weakness" in Iran's decision, he asked the people to allow time for further explanations.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that one consideration in Iran's decision was its belief that "world blasphemy and arrogance" have decided to "seriously prevent" a "rapid" Iranian victory, thereby ensuring that Iran's insistence on continuing the war could lead to "extraordinary losses" both for the Iranian and Iraqi peoples. "Unprecedented, incredible, and unlimited" resources have been placed at the disposal of Iraq, which has received "permission" to use "extremely dangerous chemical gases" and to "perpetrate any crime."

Nevertheless, the Iranian leadership did not start serious discussions on accepting a cease-fire until after the downing of the Iranair Airbus, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added. He viewed this incident as a "turning point" because it was seen by Iran as a deliberate warning by the United States that the latter would commit "immense crimes" if Iran persisted with the war.

On the future of the conflict with Iraq, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that "the dispute is not actually over," but it has been "suspended" pending the results of the implementation of UN Resolution 598. While he estimated that the attainment of peace and calm is not unlikely, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he is "not very optimistic either."

Iran still adheres to its demand for the punishment of the "aggressor," he noted, and if Iraq refuses to "surrender to what is right," Iran can then "continue" on its "path."

Nevertheless, Hashemi-Rafsanjani confirmed that Iran has now waived its demand that the committee to determine the "aggressor" be formed before a cease-fire, noting that "new conditions" have persuaded Iran to wait for the establishment of this committee "at its time and place." One factor which led Iran to change its mind was the assurances it received that the committee will "truly seek justice," he indicated. Iran's "flexibility" will also negate "poisonous propaganda" which depicted the Iranians as warmongers and which "distracted the attention of many Muslims," he said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also affirmed that the withdrawal of troops to international borders is "the first thing" to be done in the wake of a cease-fire, noting that the Iraqis are still occupying the Iranian city of Naft Shahr and some border heights, while Iranian troops likewise hold "some of the Iraqi heights."

As for the situation in the Gulf, he said Iran will "insist" on the withdrawal of U.S. forces, warning that the Americans "cannot be trusted" and that they are "looking for a pretext" to preserve U.S. influence in the region.

On the position of Iran's Armed Forces, Hashemi-Rafsanjani denied "ridiculous" rumors that Iranian forces retreated from Al-Faw and other areas on the basis of an agreement with Iraq, and he stressed that the troops put up a "serious and devoted fight" before retreating. Only in Halabjah and Hajj 'Umran was the withdrawal the result of orders from above.

He affirmed his intention to continue his reorganization of the Armed Forces after the cease-fire, stressing the need to maintain combat-ready forces at the fronts.

Iraqi Response—Responding to the news of Iran's acceptance of UN Resolution 598, Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim stressed that Iraqis must remain "vigilant and cautious" until peace is actually established and until the two countries reach a "clear agreement" on all the details of peace, INA reported. This must take the form of a "real, firm, and comprehensive peace agreement void of ambitions, deviousness, and aggression."

The Iranian General Command Headquarters statement issued on 18 July did not show a "genuine desire" for a permanent, comprehensive, and just peace accord, but rather viewed the situation in a "tactical" manner, Jasim contended. The Iraqi minister warned that Iran's references to "sacred defense" mean "aggression and expansion" and he stressed that those who want a true peace have no need for mobilization and massing of forces.

In another development in Iraq, President Saddam Husayn discussed the war with visiting Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, INA noted.

Military Situation—Military communiques reported by IRNA and Voice of the Masses radio reported continuing military activity 18 July. IRNA subsequently announced that Iraqi jets attacked four "industrial units" in southern Iran 19 July, including the nuclear power station in Bushehr and a petrochemical complex. The power station sustained damage and several people were killed or wounded.

The agency claimed that three Iraqi warplanes were shot down during the raid, two of them in dogfights with Iranian planes. An Iraqi spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses stated that an Iranian warplane was downed over the northern Gulf 19 July during a dogfight which demonstrated Iraq's aerial "superiority." Another Iraqi statement carried by the radio reported that an Iranian F-4 was shot down over Iraq while attempting to raid the city of Kirkuk.

Mideast Reaction to Iranian Announcement

A Syrian official spokesman expressed "satisfaction" with Iran's "wise decision" in accepting Resolution 598, Damascus television reported. In an editorial reviewed by Damascus radio, Syria's AL-THAWRAH held the Iraqi regime responsible for the tragedies of the war and urged the Iraqi people to punish their leaders.

Kuwaiti officials cited by KUNA welcomed the news of Iran's acceptance and expressed hope the decision would lead to a comprehensive peace agreement. Among Kuwaiti press reaction reported by the agency, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM viewed the Iranian decision as "brave" and contended that "Iran now stands in the trench of cooperation, friendship, and coexistence with neighboring Gulf states." A KUNA report on the background to the Iranian decision noted that it followed indications of disputes within the Iranian leadership.

A Saudi source cited by SPA expressed "satisfaction" with the news and reaffirmed the Kingdom's eagerness for security and stability and the achievement of a lasting peace. UAE and Qatari officials likewise welcomed the Iranian decision, according to WAKH.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid stressed that the acceptance of a cease-fire is insufficient without the withdrawal of forces to international borders, MENA noted, and expressed hope Iran would implement all the clauses of the Security Council resolution. The Turkish Foreign Ministry welcomed the Iranian announcement as a step toward peace, ANATOLIA reported.

Israeli "security elements" were "surprised" by the Iranian announcement, Jerusalem radio reported, noting their concern that if the Gulf war ends, Iraqi forces may participate in a future war against Israel. Nevertheless, they also view the end of the Gulf war as a "positive move" that may end the arms race in the Middle East and remove "illusions" about the resolution of political conflicts through force.

The radio's English service cited a statement by the IDF spokesman in which he said Israel is watching the significance of the Iranian move, stressing that military or defense sources have issued no official statement on the issue. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stressed the need to study potential future developments in light of the large size of the Iraqi Army, Jerusalem radio reported.

Iran

An agreement reestablishing diplomatic relations with Canada was signed 18 July in Tehran, IRNA reported. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the two countries will reopen their embassies in each other's capitals. He added that the agreement will open the door to expanding economic, industrial, scientific, and political cooperation.

An Iranian delegation that traveled to Paris earlier this month asked France to lift its embargo on Iranian oil imports, AFP disclosed. Iran wants to purchase sugar, cereal, and beef and to pay for it with oil, according to French economic ministry officials cited by AFP.

Bayt Sahur was declared a closed military zone after riots broke out in the town following the death of a youth who was killed by a brick which fell four stories from an IDF lookout post, Jerusalem radio reported. The IDF described the incident as an accident, but local residents refused to believe the army's explanation. The radio also reported other disturbances in two refugee camps and a neighborhood south of Jerusalem.

PLO

The PLO reiterated its "well-known constants" in a "decisive reply" to the Israeli "offer" to administer the occupied territories, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio stated. Damascus radio in its Palestine Broadcast program accused PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat of seeking "self-rule" in the territories with the occupation and Jewish settlers in place. The radio urged 'Arafat not to "stoop to the level" of a "mayor or village headman" and accused him of "dwarfing the PLO'S role."

Lebanon

Clashes continued in the Al-Qubayyat area after Syrian troops moved in "on the pretext of establishing security," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Shi'ite Ja'far clan gunmen led two violent shelling attacks against Christian residents of Al-Qubayyat and 'Anqadat, the radio claimed, adding that the injured cannot be moved from the area for treatment because of the Syrian security cordon.

President Amin al-Jumayyil survived an assassination attempt by Christian militia members 17 July, MENA reported, citing the AL-SAFIR newspaper.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received former President Sulayman Franjiyah and his son Robert, Damascus radio noted.

Egypt

The Supreme State Security Court released on bail three defendants in the Egypt's Revolution case, MENA noted.

Afghanistan

A Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a statement accusing the United States, by supplying weapons to rebel groups, of acting in "complete contravention" of the Geneva accords, Kabul radio reported.

The Afghan Government "demands" that the United States respect Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and nonalignment, the spokesman stated, citing the U.S. weapons supply as an example of "open interference" in Afghanistan's internal affairs. As a signatory to the accords, the United States is "dutybound" to implement "the pledges it made" in them and refrain from any action that does not contribute to their implementation, the spokesman added.

The presidential office issued a statement declaring safe passage for opposition group members traveling "without their weapons" to any area or city "except Kabul" for 'Id al-Adha celebrations, Kabul radio said.

At least eight persons were killed in a 19 July rocket attack on "residential areas" of Kabul, TASS noted.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Radio Views Recent Shamir Proposal

JN1807203288 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Station commentary: "Failed Zionist Attempts To Emerge From the Exacerbating Dilemma"]

[Text] Brothers: The sons of our great Palestinian people, and the sons of our glorious Arab nation, faced with the continuation of our blessed Palestinian uprising, its escalation, its splendid daily performances, and the deep changes it daily carries out on all levels, the Zionist dilemma becomes more excerbated on the security, economic, military, moral, and political level.

The enemy's dilemma these days becomes apparent through various forms, the most prominent being the enemy's obvious lack of will and its inability to make decisions of any meaning with the exception of carrying out black terrorism, blind violence, and the overt participation of their settlers in the waves of hatred, terrorism, and extremism. This magnifies the dilemma and removes the last mask the enemy had been hiding behind.

Through the policy of hatred, terrorism, and extremism, the Zionist entity finds itself deprived of the pillars on which it used to rely in the past. These pillars are the international public opinion's illusion about this entity and the Jewish communities' belief that this so-called state of Israel can be a haven for them. They discover that it is merely an illusion, a threatened existence, and a state of aggression that cannot last. [Words indistinct] completely depends on the United States.

All the manifestations of power of which the Zionist entity's leaders boast are only sheer lies which cannot stand in the face of the Palestinian reality. In an attempt to emerge from this stifling dilemma the Zionist entity experiences on the political level, the enemy leaders, such as Shamir, Peres, and others resort from time to time to the dissemination of some rumors, or they disseminate some proposal through brokers here and there, believing that they can find a breach through which they can penetrate, and one that will give them the opportunity to catch their breath.

The most recent attempt is that proposal Shamir personally submitted through one of the countries. In this proposal, Shamir suggests that the PLO agree to municipal council elections [words indistinct] after this self-rule in these territories.

Shamir and the Zionist entity received a stunning blow when the decisive reply came from the PLO and its leader, Yasir 'Arafat. This reply came when the PLO reiterated its well-known constants. These constants are the termination of the occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital. This decisive reply from the PLO has put the Zionist enemy leaders in a new dilemma, has forced internal differences in the Zionist entity to surface and to erupt once again, and has made the Zionist leaders exchange accusations in the [words indistinct] which was held 2 days ago.

The picture now is that the Zionist entity and the odious occupation are being hemmed in. The Zionists have wagered on the termination of the uprising but the uprising continues in its 8th month with more vigor. The Zionists have also wagered on the maneuvers the United States had carried out through George Shultz' tours and the other envoys in the region.

However, the U.S. initiatives and tours have reached an impasse thanks to Palestinian steadfastness and the resolute stand and the clarity of vision within the PLO leadership. In spite of the fact that the men of the U.S. Administration have succeeded in bringing about some suspect deals between the Zionist entity on one hand and some Arab defeatists, such as Hafiz al-Asad, on the other, these suspect deals have not succeeded in wringing the neck of the ever-escalating Palestinian struggle.

On the contrary, the blessed and heroic uprising succeeded at the Algiers summit in transforming the Palestinian constants into Arab constants. This has been tantamount to a new Palestinian achievement and a deadly blow against the Zionist and U.S. ambitions and against the designs of some defeatists who were infuriated and felt that the Palestinian fire is getting closer to them.

Thus, they committed the massacre in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah in an attempt to relieve the pressure on their Zionist allies and to show their U.S. allies they are capable of achieving something within the framework of these suspect deals.

We do not know whether the enemy will be able to see the facts as they are, to assimilate them and, consequently, to adopt a real decision on the premise that the perpetuation of the occupation has become impossible. We also do not know whether the enemy, through the frenzied behavior of its leaders, such as Shamir, Peres, Rabin, and Sharon, will pursue the game of fudging the issue, become more involved in crime and terrorism, and continue to wait for a breakthrough from the U.S. maneuvers and the treachery by some Arabs such as Hafiz al-Asad.

No matter what, the blessed uprising throughout our occupied homeland and the Palestinian struggle in general will remain capable of surprising the enemy at all the crossroads to block its way and force it to submit to the Palestinian reality which can no longer be avoided. This reality consists in the completion of the Palestinian national independence and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. Revolution until victory.

PLF's Muhammad 'Abbas on Camps War, Abu Sharif

JN1607185088 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 14-15 Jul 88 pp 1, 18

[Interview with Muhammad 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front and PLO Executive Committee member, by an unidentified reporter; date, place not given]

[Reporter] Abu al-'Abbas, where are you now? You disappeared for a long time after the "Achille Lauro" incident. We hear your statements from time to time. We also hear you are in the process of launching a dialogue among the wings of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] with the aim of bringing about national unity.

However, since the 18th PNC session, you have not made any notable public appearance. Have you begun to believe in the viability of underground action or are you preparing for certain surprises?

['Abbas] It must be admitted that the nature of action and the circumstances under which action is being manifested changed in one form or another after the "Achille Lauro" incident.

However, this change was not only caused by the givens and circumstances of this incident. It was also caused by the overall situation of the arena in which we are struggling. To be more precise, the change was caused by the situation in our Palestinian and Arab arenas.

I believe that the issue of the Palestinian national struggle needs deeds more than words. This requires a change in the mode of action—a change that goes in line with the nature of the missions and tasks we are supposed to be undertaking.

Hence, my failure to make public appearances if directly related to the methods of national struggle. As for our front, the PLF, internal dialogue was consummated more than 3 months ago and an agreement reached to enhance internal unity.

A provisional command called the command council, comprising three comrades, was formed to lead the PLF to the unifying general congress, which will be held during the next few months.

[Reporter] How do you feel now that the U.S. charges against you have been dropped? Do you feel that the dropping of these charges gives you more room for movement? Or have your movements and militant struggle not been affected by Reagan's threats against you?

['Abbas] Since the beginning, we considered the U.S. stand, which was represented by a decision to pursue me, as a continuation of the U.S Administration's policy hostile to our national cause and completely biased toward the Zionist enemy.

Hence, the U.S. decision to stop the pursuit changes nothing, as it was not accompanied by a change in the U.S. stand toward our national issue. Indeed, through its hostile stand, the U.S. Administration has been pursuing the Palestinian people and launching endless terrorist campaigns against them.

This has been embodied in the political moves it has been launching, its direct support for the enemy, its disdain of the most basic human rights of the Palestinians, and its ceaseless attempts to harm the Palestine question. Therefore, we have to say the U.S. decision was made in view of two considerations:

The first consideration is the U.S. Administration's failure to enforce its decision during 2 and ½ years of pursuit after it had recruited its media and intelligence organs. This created a big dilemma for this administration and cast doubts on its ability to achieve the objective of arresting or besieging us.

The second consideration which is, in my opinion, the most important one is related to Israeli-U.S. security cooperation. The CIA handed the Israeli Mosad our dossier so the latter could carry out this mission, thereby sparing the U.S. Administration any responsibilities which might harm its interests. We have received confirmed information indicating that a U.S.-Israeli agreement was reached approximately 6 months ago.

According to this agreement, the Israeli organs would carry out assassination attempts against 11 Palestinian leaders. The U.S.-Israeli cooperation succeeded in carrying out the crime of assassinating Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] within the framework of this plan.

Hence, the U.S. decision to stop the pursuit must prompt us to show further vigilance, as the pursuit decision was changed into an assassination decision. As for us, our struggling movement was affected neither by the previous U.S. decision nor by the subsequent U.S. decision. however, we have taken into account the new developments. Things have been arranged in a manner in line with our missions without allowing these missions to be affected. [Reporter] What is your direct personal stand toward the Abu Sharif document? Do you think it includes certain positive points or was it proposed at an improper time? Had you been in Abu Sharif's place, would you have proposed this document?

['Abbas] I have not commented on Brother Bassam Abu Sharif's document before. I am not with those who made a big issue of this document. I believe that judging what Abu Sharif said in this way will pave the way for internal battles and divert attention from dealing with the major disorder in the Palestinian arena.

What Brother Bassam Abu Sharif said was a logical conclusion of the Palestinian policies that began in 1974—policies that considered settlement a transitional objective of the Palestinian people's struggle regardless of the slogans that accompanied this and which were expressed through various languages.

Lest we repeat this situation, and to avoid accusing a Palestinian struggler of not being patriotic from time to times, we must reexamine Palestinian policies, because this will save our national cause and decrease the losses inflicted on us as a result of these policies.

If they continue, then what Bassam Abu Sharif said or wrote will be considered much better than the objectives that would be attained. In light of this, I only see one positive point in Bassam Abu Sharif's document, which is the shock that might awaken us. I cannot discuss the document in terms of its timing, the responsibility enjoyed by the man who wrote it, whether he is authorized or not, and whether what he wrote was agreed upon or not, because this would make us deviate from the essence.

However, had I been in his place, I would have contributed to proposing a document making the Palestinian stand more intransigent through escalating the slogans and objectives of the Palestinian people's struggle and enabling the stone-throwing children and the Palestinian revolutionaries, who have so far refused to even talk to the U.S. Administration's envoys, to achieve their aspirations.

[Reporter] Certain Arab sides say Bassam Abu Sharif's document was behind what has taken place in the Beirut camps. Do you believe this?

['Abbas] What took place in the Beirut camps was a continuation of the Israeli enemy's massacres in 1982. These massacres were continued by the Amal Movement throughout the past years. These massacres cannot be isolated from plans that still aim to destroy the Palestinian people's pillars of steadfastness and to remove the Beirut camps to pave the way for the establishment of greater Beirut.

The long siege of the Beirut camps in the past and the bloody battles against our people did not succeed in achieving the objectives of this siege. Therefore, the fortress that was impregnable to the enemy must be invaded from inside.

Thus, they came up with the Palestinian Trojan horse, which entered the Palestinian camps to achieve what the enemy could not achieve. It is regrettable to say that the Palestinian Trojan horse has succeeded in destorying the fortress of the Beirut camps.

It is known that the decision to destroy the Beirut camps was made years ago and any attempt to link what took place in Shatila with Bassam Abu Sharif's document is an attempt to delude and deceive people. A reply to Abu Sharif's document cannot be made by shedding Palestinian blood. The only place where weapons can be used is in occupied Palestine.

[Reporter] Some say this document is detrimental to the uprising, while others say it is detrimental to Palestinian national unity. Where do you stand in all that?

['Abbas] There is no doubt that the document is detrimental to the uprising and contributes to splitting opinion in our Palestinian arena. As for Palestinian national unity, I believe it is based on a national program that represents the minimum agreed upon by Palestinians. No official stand has thus far contradicted this program.

I think the main threat to Palestinian national unity does not and did not come from within the Palestinian home as much as it did from the direct interference of some Arab parties into our Palestinian arena. What we fear is that Bassam Abu Sharif's document will again be used as an excuse by some Arab parties to bring pressure to bear on some Palestinian sides to revive inter-Palestinian fighting, as was the case between 1983 and 1986.

[Reporter] What would you like to tell Abu Sharif?

['Abbas] In fact, Bassam Abu Sharif is known to be a prominent Palestinian struggler. He has made militant contributions in the arena of national work. He also has an honorable national reputation, which I hope he will be able to maintain.

The document he presented raised questions, which he is required to answer. He should not be a symbol of Palestinian division or Palestinian concessions after he has been a symbol of offering and sacrifice.

[Reporter] What would you like to tell Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah]?

['Abbas] It might be useful to remind Abu Musa, the former warrior in southern Lebanon, that the only area for him to score victories is south of the Beirut camps, and he knows that place well; it is with the Israeli enemy. The triumph of artillery over the camps children is a defeat for all his utterances on the eve of his uprising.

There is a big difference between the army officer who receives an order from his superiors and executes it without argument and the political leader. There is also a great difference between a military coup and popular will.

[Reporter] What is your stand now after departure from the Beirut camps?

['Abbas] In late August and at the beginning of September 1982, the Israeli war machine, in conjunction with the isolationist forces, succeeded in forcing the Palestinian revolution fighters out of Lebanon. At the end of 1983, the political decision of a specific Arab side, using some Palestinian tools, succeeded in forcing the Palestinian revolution fighters out of the camps in northern Lebanon.

Abu Musa has now triumphed over the children and women of Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah and the political decision of that Arab side, using the Palestinian Trojan horse, succeeded in forcing the revolution fighters out of the Beirut camps following 6 years of continuous siege. Abu Musa now declares he will be the high commissioner who decides the fate of the Beirut camps.

Does he have the ability to do so? Actually, the one who squanders Palestinian blood possesses the appropriate power to kill Palestinians regardless of the source of that power and those standing behind it.

[Reporter] Abu Musa said 'Arafat is about to set up a canton for himself in Sidon. What can you say about this?

['Abbas] Talk about this subject makes us inquire about those who are deporting the fighters from Beirut camps to Sidon and who help not in creating a canton in that area, but in setting the stage for the Zionist enemy to carry out its role in destroying the Palestinian Revolution Forces there after accomplishing the job of evacuating the revolution forces from Beirut.

[Reporter] Abu Musa has said 'Arafat must leave Beirut because his presence there provides him with a card to participate in a U.S. settlement. What do you think of this?

['Abbas] Events have proved that 'Arafat's presence in Syria is much greater than his presence in Beirut. The masses of our Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland have emphasized their full commitment to the PLO under the leadership of Brother Yasir 'Arafat.

In fact, the removal of the revolutionary fighters from Beirut will not contribute to preventing a card that may help Brother 'Arafat to participate in the settlement. Rather, it will provide the enemy with a greater opportunity and additional peace enabling it to further encroach on the Palestinian people and their rights.

The talk about opposition to the U.S. settlement necessarily requires mobilizing all resources to confront the main enemy that is usurping the Palestinian territories to force it out of occupied Palestine. It does not require forcing the Palestinian Revolution Forces out of their positions in Beirut.

[Reporter] 'Arafat has said that the camps war is an attempt to deal a blow to the uprising and create a rift in the Arab stand. What do you think?

['Abbas] We are of the opinion that the camps war, with its potential consequences, not only contributes to dealing a blow to the uprising and creating a rift in the Arab stand but also weakens the PLO and negatively affects the Palestinian people's national cause through facilitating the passage of the enemy's program with fewer losses and less opposition. The camps war is not only of a Palestinian-Palestinian dimension.

It cannot be assessed on this basis because, originally, it is a response to the hostile scheme and complementary to the Zionist enemy's program to destroy the Palestinian Revolution Forces, especially since the uprising of our people inside and the revolution forces outside are closely bound. There is a reciprocal effect between them.

The continuation and escalation of the revolution allow the integration of the Palestinian forces that can protect the Palestinian national decision and the Palestinian people's rights.

[Reporter] Observers say that the recent camps war destroyed the outcome of the Algiers summit. Is this a correct analysis?

['Abbas] The latest round in the camps war did not come on the eve of the end of 'Arafat's visit to Damascus. Shatila camp was subject to several provocations by the dissidents. This was followed by clashes. These resulted in a unified Palestinian stand in Shatila camp, which put an end to the dissidents' provocations.

However, things did not stop here. The dissidents began artillery and missile shelling. They tried to control the camp by force before the Arab summit. These attempts calmed during the summit, but were resumed immediately after the summit, this time in a more savage way that led to a complete destruction of the camp and to the consequences that we all know.

It should be noted that the escalation and continuation of the events after the Arab summit would not have been possible apart from the political decision and the direct support for the dissidents to implement the program of removing the Palestinian camps from Beirut as an introduction to the creation of greater Beirut. This is an old-new program.

What happened in the Beirut camps gives full evidence of the extent of commitment to the Algiers resolutions on supporting the Palestinian revolution and the uprising of our people inside the occupied homeland. We cannot consider the outcome of the summit to have been undermined. Rather, we can say that some Arab parties used their presence at the summit as a disguise to continue implementing their old program.

PFLP's Habash on Infighting, 'Uprising,' Israel

*JN1007094288 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
8 Jul 88 p 13*

[Interview with PFLP Secretary General George Habash by Hasan Muhammad 'Abdallah in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abdallah] PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash did not remember me when I shook hands with him at his office in Damascus. I reminded him that our acquaintanceship dates back to the period proceding the Israeli Lebanon invasion of 1982. He welcomed me. The lack of time prevented him from recalling past memories despite the fact that he desired to do so. He asked me about the AL-QABAS international edition and said he reads it on a continuous basis. Then, he sat on a sofa and asked for the morning coffee.

Sacred constants are always alive in the doctor's mind and they are always articulated through his lips with unmistakable emotions. He always places the Palestine question and its essence in the balance. And the balance currently stipulates that the uprising is the element which enjoys greater weight than others. The largest part of the dialogue, the text of which is carried below, tackled the Palestine question and the uprising being staged by the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

['Abdallah] Which party is currently trying to erroneously exploit the uprising and how is this issue being presented?

[Habash] So far, we have had three attempts to exploit the uprising in an erroneous and hasty manner. Such attempts can only lead to negative results.

The first attempt was when the idea of a government-in-exile was put forth while the uprising was only in its first month. We asked ourselves at the time about the political objective of the government-in-exile. We all know that the PLO is recognized on the Palestinian and Arab popular and official level and enjoys international recognition with the exception of Israel and the U.S. Administration.

If the PLO is recognized by all these quarters as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative, why then should we put forth the idea of a government-in-exile and what do we want it to achieve? Do we not have the right to deduce that the objective from this idea is to circumvent the PLO, its charter, its incremental program, and the resolutions adopted by the successive PNC sessions, particularly the unifying PNC session in Algiers? The submission of the slogan of a government-in-exile has created confusion in the Palestinian arena. We thank God we have succeeded in containing and terminating this idea.

The second attempt is the visit Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah paid to the United States where they met with Shultz. We understand at the time that the meeting could not have taken place had they not obtained the approval of influential Palestinian forces. What did Shultz seek to achieve from this meeting? The objective of this meeting had been to circumvent the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising and to divide Palestinian ranks. Is this not a hasty and erroneous exploitation of the uprising?

The last attempt consisted of this document that Bassam Abu Sharif circulated in his capacity as the press adviser of the PLO Executive Committee chairman. This document poses a real threat to the march of the uprising. I have read this document. Is it not painful, regrettable, and shameful that it should refer to Israel's desire for peace at a time when there are voices within Israel which say the Zionist has turned into a Nazi entity? It also comes at a time when we ask the world to condemn Israel as a power which is hostile to peace.

The document also emphazes direct negotiations with Israel. It is true that it refers to the international conference but the most important point in the document is that it focuses on direct negotiations. There is a great difference between the emphasis on the international conference through which bilateral or tripartite negotiations could be held and the emphasis on direct negotiations. There is another important point with respect to the document.

['Abdallah] With your permission, we will further discuss the document later. We would like to go back once again to the uprising. To what extent is the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising affected by the political state of affairs outside the occupied territories?

[Habash] The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising is the arm of the PLO. Any attempt to distinguish between the Unified National Leadership and the PLO is a very grave mistake and will fail. This does not prevent me from saying that the striking arm of the PLO in the occupied territories expresses the PLO Charter, its incremental program, and PNC resolutions much more than some opportunists and capitulationists within the PLO framework.

['Abdallah] This expresses a concern over the Unified National Leadership from the point of view that it could be affected by these opportunist and capitulationist trends?

[Habash] These trends I have mentioned are the ones which are living in a state of fear and anxiety. They fear that they will be bypassed by the Unified National Leadership which sincerely and faithfully expresses every word in our incremental program and the recent PNC resolutions.

['Abdallah] Do you think the Unified National Leadership will remain unaffected by the splits within the Palestinian groups outside the occupied territory?

[Habash] If you mean by that the differences in viewpoints between the groups within the PLO, then my answer is that that this will not lead to a split. For example, the PFLP maintains its own viewpoint concerning the uprising, its horizons, and how it should wage its daily tactical battles. So while we are determined to protect the uprising politically from any hasty erroneous political penetration or exploitation, we are also equally determined to win our battles within the PLO's legitimate frameworks. We are sure of that. For example, do you still hear about the government in exile? I believe your answer will be no.

['Abdallah] Correct.

[Habash] We won the political battle concerning the government in exile without exposing the Palestinian arena to any split. There are other examples. The uprising in the occupied territory is a big support now for the national line; I stress the Palestinian progressive national line.

But if you are referring to the question of the organizations outside the PLO framework, then my answer is that this is of course regrettable. We wish the matter could be tackled quickly. But whoever follows up the details of the existing situation now in the Palestinian arena inside the occupied territory knows that the forces operating within the PLO framework are the base and the leadership of the uprising. Therefore, there is no fear of the existing differences outside the territory having a negative effect on the uprising.

We know that the enemy is wagering on exploiting Palestinian differences. The enemy has failed in its policy of suppression, detentions, and other methods. So we now hear a new tune in the Israeli plan concentrating on any differences within the Palestinian arena in order to exploit these differences in weakening the uprising inside the occupied territory. This of course is mere wishful thinking by the enemy. But what I know and my information confirms that despite certain loopholes which are bound to exist, the Unified National Leadership is a well-knit leadership, which is aware of its historic responsibility and all the plans to suppress the uprising or undermine it politically. [passage omitted]

['Abdallah] Do you expect any change in the U.S. stand?

[Habash] The United States will be forced to deal with the new realities. It is true that so far there has been no change on this level. But will this continue forever? My reply is that it will not. Even Israel, which at the beginning of the uprising had stated that it is impossible to discuss or speak about any political solution before quelling the uprising, recently was forced to have its defense minister meet with some Palestinian figures. Of course, these figures are insignificant.

However, the perpetuation of the uprising will force Rabin to meet with another type of Palestinian figure. The uprising will continue until Israel is forced to meet with Palestinian nationalist figures and to recognize the PLO, and the Palestinian people's national rights. What do you think the U.S. stand will be when it feels that the Arab regimes have changed their stands? What do you think the U.S. stand will be if the uprising continues, brings about an Arab public opinion that will put pressure on the Arab regimes to have them adopt some measures against the U.S. Administration? Everything is subject to change. What is important is our determination, our struggle, and the mobilization of the resources of our masses. What is important is that we learn lessons from the uprising.

The uprising has come to definitively defeat some concepts in the Arab and Palestinian arena. It has taken place to explicitly clarify other concepts. Our masses in the occupied territories have swept away some concepts and the uprising is still at its beginning.

I would like to remind you that the PFLP's policy is based on the fact that the uprising has just started.

['Abdallah] The uprising started with demonstrations. Then it used stones, Molotov cocktails, and fires. What will be the next step?

[Habash] National civil disobedience. The Unified Leadership's statements affirm the need to proceed along the course of civil disobedience. What does civil disobedience mean? Will it be a qualitative step in the march of the uprising? And is there a Palestinian consensus on implementing civil disobedience?

National civil disobedience means that in spite of the presence of the forces of occupation, and in spite of the existence of local rule established by the occupation, the masses of the uprising will establish their local national rule which will become a reality and around which the masses will rally and whose instructions they will follow. It will be the rule that works for the attainment of the masses objectives by democratically reacting with them.

It is impermissible for us to imagine that civil disobedience represents a total and final victory over the occupation authorities. It will only mean that the people's rule will become the prevailing authority in occupied Palestine.

We all know how difficult it is to achieve a complete evacuation of the occupation forces. So long as the occupation continues to exist, it will succeed in mobilizing some agents and collaborators. But no one can prevent us from having aspirations of reaching a stage during which the people's authority will become the prevailing manifestation.

['Abdallah] What would Israel's reply be; and do you think that the occupation authorities have exhausted all methods to suppress the uprising?

[Habash] I cannot say that. But what I would like to emphasize here is that our Palestinian and Arab masses are still at the beginning of pooling their resources. We must admit that the enemy has other weapons. It is no secret that the enemy is thinking of using new weapons to suppress the uprising. This is not a secret, because some Israeli officials are talking about such weapons. From time to time, they threaten to strangle the West Bank and Gaza by cutting off all links between these territories and the outside world. Their main weapon here is the closure of the bridges. The diehards even threaten to resort to the policy of mass deportations.

['Abdallah] Through massacres?

[Habash] Yes. We are fully aware of that. But we also know that revolution is a science which requires scientific revolutionary tactics that understand the gravity of the conspiracy and the wagerings as well as the need to take into consideration all the subjective circumstances whether on the Arab, international, or domestic levels. Nevertheless I have great faith in our masses' ability to achieve all their slogans inside the occupied territory.

['Abdallah] Let us now move to the situation in the Lebanese arena, especially the camps war. Some people say this war could lead to a Palestinian civil war.

[Habash] First of all, the Palestinian revolution is not confined to the Lebanese arena, although this arena constitutes a basic pillar of the Palestinian revolution. The main pillar is occupied Palestine. Therefore, I cannot but differ with your opinion when you say that what is currently taking place in Lebanon could lead to a Palestinian civil war. You do not find such a war within the Palestinian populations in the occupied territory or Jordan. This phenomenon is, and will remain, restricted to the Lebanese arena.

['Abdallah] Allow me to be more specific in my question. Is there any fear that the fighting in the camps could turn into a civil war, that is, involve other Palestinian groups or have a direct impact on the popular base?

[Habash] Of course the question is clear for the following reason: We all know that there is a hostile plan against the entire Palestinian presence, particularly the Palestinian rifle, in Lebanon. The phases of this plan are well-known: the invasion, the Sabra and Shatila massacres, the first and second camps war, and now the present camps war. The forces which want to end or reduce the Palestinian presence and so end the presence of the Palestinian rifle in Lebanon, will continue to work and work systematically. Naturally, these forces have found in the present Palestinian infighting their rare opportunity to achieve their objectives.

We must not also belittle or ignore the threat you are referring in your question. There are forces which understand the gravity of this plan and try to abort it. Therefore, the Lebanese arena will continue to witness a conflict over this particular point. For our part, we will not be dragged into any form of Palestinian infighting. So we not only condemn this fighting, but also consider it a crime, especially in view of the uprising. Many other Palestinian forces maintain a similar stand. We are now trying to make both warring sides understand that their fighting would only facilitate hostile plans against the Palestinian rifle.

We are also enlisting the help of all Arab and international forces which understand the gravity of what is taking place in the camps for the Palestinian rifle, Palestinian presence, and the uprising. We hope to succeed in that. Furthermore, we are trying to make our masses in Lebanon serve as a pressure force to stop the fighting and create a Palestinian public opinion that views the fighting as a big crime.

['Abdallah] It appears all the pressure has not succeeded. What are the practical ways to end the fighting?

[Habash] First, because all the efforts that have been made so far have not yielded results does not mean we should not continue. We are now concentrating on mass action which makes the fighters feel the magnitude of the danger they are creating for the uprising and the Palestinian revolution, and we are particularly concentrating on the principal party that bears responsibility for the shelling and the displacement of camp residents, namely Fatah-Provisional Command. We are making efforts to end the fighting. I hope that we will soon be able to use the weapon of exposing the side that violates the last cease-fire. When a cease-fire is consolidated we will bring Palestinian security forces from the seven organizations that did not take part in the fighting so that they will form a barrier that prevents a return to the fighting.

['Abdallah] A Palestinian official in Beirut said to me the current fighting has not reached the red line, and if the situation should reach such a stage then the seven factions will have to intervene to stop the fighting. What is your view?

[Habash] We do not want to think about reaching a red line, but we want to prevent the warring sides from reaching the red line.

According to my information, during the recent Shultz-Al-Jumayyil meeting in Cyprus three topics were discussed. The first of these topics was Palestinian presence in Lebanon. I hope you will say that to the Palestinian official to whom you referred, so that he will not seek to reach the red line and will make efforts to end the fighting.

['Abdallah] Some people say the current camps war in Lebanon is one of the keys to a solution in Lebanon. What is your view?

[Habash] Yes, that is true. Regardless of the fact whether the fighting broke out for such an objective or not, it is natural that it should be exploited for implementing the many plans that provided for disarming the Palestinians as a prelude to bringing about a solution to the Lebanese question.

['Abdallah] What is the fate of the Syrian-Palestinian dialogue on normalizing relations between the two sides? Has the dialogue ceased? Why has it ceased? What are the latest developments?

[Habash] The dialogue has not ceased. At the recent summit a meeting was held between the Syrian and Palestinian leaders. It was agreed at the meeting to continue the dialogue. It was also agreed that through bilateral contacts the earliest possible date convenient to the two sides will be set for a visit by a PLO delegation to Damascus to continue the dialogue.

I want to emphasize that the beginning of untying that knot—the knot of Syrian-Palestinian relations—was a result of the uprising. It was a great achievement for the uprising. Anyone acquainted with the magnitude of the complications hampering the normalization and strengthening of Syrian-Palestinian relations knows well that it would not have been possible to begin to normalize relations had it not been for the uprising and its effect on the Arab arena. It is true that Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir's] martyrdom and the presence of his family in Damascus as well as Arab chivalry and magnanimity played a role in receiving Abu Jihad's body in Damascus, but it is also true that both the Syrian and Palestinian sides found in Abu Jihad's martyrdom an opportunity to normalize relations between the PLO and Syria.

We now know that the normalization and then the strengthening of relations serves Syrian and Palestinian interests. A responsible, exact, and scientific thinking by the Palestinian leaders will make them conclude that the strengthening of their relations with Syria is necessary for them and for the uprising to achieve its political objective. With regard to the Syrian leaders, serious thinking about steadfastness in the face of Israeli and imperialist plots hatched against them is bound to lead them to conclude that an alliance with the PLO is a necessity for Syria. Therefore, the obstacles in the way of strengthening PLO-Syrian relations notwithstanding—and we are aware of these obstacles and do not underestimate them—we believe matters will head toward strengthening relations.

I have mentioned the Arab past of the uprising. Any serious thinking to change the official Arab situation begins by strengthening relations between Syria and the PLO. It is that which prompted us, after holding the PNC session in Algiers, to consider that the strengthening of Syrian-PLO relations constitutes for us at present the central link on the Arab level. Perhaps some people at the time ridiculed such an argument because they knew of the great complications that exist. However, the common interests of the two sides require and will push developments toward stronger relations.

['Abdallah] Are there joint committees to crystallize what was agreed upon in Algiers?

[Habash] The thing that was agreed upon at the Algiers meeting is that brother Yasir 'Arafat will visit Damascus at the head of a PLO delegation.

['Abdallah] Was a date fixed for the materialization of the visit?

[Habash] The phrase used was "at the earliest possible time that suits the two parties."

['Abdallah] Is there a political climate that should be part of this visit?

[Habash] The general political climate helped enhance bilateral relations at the summit. The two parties were in agreement on the seriousness of the U.S. plans proposed, on the need to confront them, and also on the need to support and protect the uprising. These points of agreement bode well for the possibility of enhancing bilateral relations. However, there still remain the obstacles of the relationship with Egypt, the contacts with the so-called democratic forces in Israel, and the Palestinian national unity; namely, that of the factions which have not joined the PLO. And of course, the Lebanon issue is also there.

I would like to say that the PFLP expects that things will head toward an enhancement of bilateral relations.

['Abdallah] Let us return, if you please, to what you have said regarding the Bassam Abu Sharif document. You have said that the document evokes fear, as it focuses on the direct dialogue with Israel rather than on the international conference. Are we to understand from these words that there is a possibility for discussing or amending this document?

[Habash] First, this is not the only fault that I find in the document. There are many basic faults in it. Let us begin with the organizational fault. The document indicates that the solution envisaged in it is the final solution to the Middle East conflict. Who says that the PLO charter, or its incremental program, or the PNC resolutions provide for or condone the recognition of the Zionist entity? I am a PNC member and I am well familiar with the charter, the incremental program, and the latest PNC resolutions. I do not remember that the PNC has ever taken a decision approving the final recognition and consecration of the existence of Israel.

We seek to use the international conference as a tool to enable us to establish a sovereign Palestinian national state. The sovereign state has the right to recognize or fail to recognize other states. Basically, the Palestinian state program was called the PLO's incremental program. How then can anybody allow himself to write a memorandum or an article referring to the final consecration of the Zionist presence on Palestinian territory?

And in case an independent Palestinian state is established, what about the right to repatriation? The right to repatriation, to self-determination, and to establishing the independent Palestinian state are contained in the incremental program.

Have we then abandoned this program? I am from Lod and my fighting and struggle cannot stop before I return to the city of Lod. Well, Reagan is fighting in support of the Soviet Jews, right to emigrate to Israel. Do not I have the right to fight to return to my homeland? What applies to me also applies to 60 percent of the Palestinian masses residing in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Is it sound to pursue tactics that might exacerbate inter-Palestinian differences? Do they want me to incite 60 percent of the Palestinian people and tell them that the envisaged solution does not resolve the conflict, and that consequently, they have to fight a battle against those who are posing this danger?

Hence, I hope that those who were behind the formulation and publication of this memorandum will realize the dangers entailed in the pursuit of single-handed tactics. Furthermore, I also hope that they will realize the dangers entailed in undermining the political resolutions reached.

And finally, we ask ourselves the following question: Will this "tactical gimmickry" lead us anywhere? And is this the time for providing further concessions? We are currently in a phase in which the international conference has not begun its meetings so far. And yet, they want us to take off our jacket before the international conference begins its meetings. They are not satisfied with the jacket; they also want us to take off our trousers. They are not even satisfied with our trousers; they want us to take off our underwear. So, they want us naked in the international conference.

Algeria

Interior Minister, Libyan Official Discuss Ties
LD1807112188 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] As a follow-up to the multi-level exchanges between Algeria and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and in response to directives of each leadership, today, Minister of Interior El-Hadi Khdiri met the Libyan delegation to the joint Libyan-Algerian commission which is chaired by Mohammad al-Musrati, secretary of the internal security establishment in the Jamahiriyah. Also present were the head of the Algerian delegation to the commission, Abdelmadjid Bousbi, director general of national security, and Algeria's ambassador to the Jamahiriyah, Abdelkader Hajjar, as well as the secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria.

During the meeting, Khdiri reviewed the results of bilateral talks about the preparation of the necessary measures for the movement of citizens between the two countries with identity cards, as declared during the visit of Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud to Algeria on 27 June 1988.

On the occasion, El-Hadi Khdiri made a speech during which he welcomed the members of the fraternal Libyan delegation and emphasized that this important step regarding the movement of citizens between the two countries constitutes a basic foundation of the Maghreb policy of the Algerian leadership, which aims at establishing a greater Arab Maghred for the benefit and prosperity of the people of the region. The minister asked the members of the commission to speed up preparations for the agreements which will be the outcome of its proceedings so that these agreements will be ready for signing by next Tuesday.

He stressed that efforts are being made for the creation of a joint company and for the achievement of economic integration between the two countries. He also stressed that efforts are being made to facilitate every measure and to provide every necessary facility for the establishment of a greater Arab Maghreb.

PLO's Faruq Qaddumi Arrives for Talks
LD1807224388 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, arrived in Algeria this evening. He was welcomed at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Sadek Zouaten, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee in charge of the Council of Friendship and Solidarity with Peoples, and by Abu al-'Izz, PLO representative in Algeria.

At the airport VIP lounge, Faruq Qaddumi made a statement in which he expressed, on behalf of the delegation accompanying him, his joy over this visit and over the meetings which he will hold with officials in Algeria. They will discuss coordinating—as agreed during previous sessions—the implementation of the resolutions made at the extraordinary Arab Summit in Algiers which was dedicated to supporting the Palestinian uprising.

The uprising, which was described by the head of the PLO's Political Department [words indistinct]. The Palestinian people are determined to continue this uprising to end the occupation, cut its roots, and take charge of their own destiny to set up an independent state in Palestine, (?Qaddumi said).

Briefs

Delegation Visits Moscow

Moscow, 12 July (APS)—The Algerian delegation led by Mr Mohamed Cherif Rahmani, secretary general at the Home Ministry, in an official visit to USSR since last Saturday was audienced on Monday by Mr A.V. Vlasov, USSR home minister. Talks were centered on relations between the two ministerial departments. [Text] */LD1507024288 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 12 Jul 88/*

Chad

Habre Receives French Military Officers
AB1607063988 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] This morning, the president of the Republic received two high-ranking French military officers: Colonel (Pidanssey), the outgoing commanding officer of the Epervier operation, and Col (Rassier), the new commanding officer of the operation.

Col (Pidanssey), who is leaving Chad after a tour of duty of 7 and ½ months, came to introduce his successor and bid farewell to the head of state. After the audience, the two heads of the Epervier operation spoke to the national news media. First, Col (Pidanssey) reviewed his tour of duty in Chad.

[Begin recording] [(Pidanssey)] I will indeed be leaving Chad soon. I have spent 7 and ½ months here as the head of the Epervier operation. The results can be summed up simply; I would say they were highly positive. I thus got to know this country that I was unfamiliar with and I grew to like it very much. I enjoyed the hospitality and welcoming spirit of its people.

As an officer, I will not forget the brotherhood in arms which links us to the Chadian forces. I sincerely hope that cooperation between Chadian and French forces, and generally speaking, between France and Chad, will become stronger and that their friendly and fraternal relations will always be excellent.

[Reporter] What do you think of the FANT after several months of cooperation?

[(Pidanssey)] I think the FANT showed what they could do in 1987. You are aware that there may be a shortage of equipment, but I think the most important factor is the men who use this equipment, and on that point, I believe that the FANT has nothing to learn from anybody. They proved it in 1987. [end recording]

Achka Abdarame asked Col (Rassier) whether the Epervier operation would undergo any changes? Here is what he said:

[Begin recording] [(Rassier)] There will be no changes in the Epervier operation. I am succeeding Col (Pidanssey) and will carry out exactly the same mission. I am highly honored to have been appointed to this post.

I am not at all familiar with Chad; this is my first visit. I have been here for 3 days and have received an excellent welcome. For now, the Epervier operation continues as before and the excellent relations between the Chadian and French military officers, and generally speaking, between the Chadians and the French, will be strengthened. [end recording]

Egypt

Iranian Acceptance of Resolution 598 Welcomed

Ghali Statement

NC1807130888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1222 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt welcomes Iran's announced acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 for settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict.

He said that this constitutes a decisive move toward the implementation of this resolution. This new position, he added, places an additional responsibility on the Security Council to adopt practical measures to implement Resolution 598 to end the Iraq-Iran war through peaceful negotiations that would achieve peace and stability in the region and provide the necessary thrust to guarantee this.

Acceptance 'Insufficient'

NC1807210988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1958 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt today received the text of the Iranian president's letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar regarding Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war.

During his meeting this evening with ambassadors newly appointed to posts abroad, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid noted that Egypt is now studying the text of the letter in light of the information received from its permanent delegation at the United Nations and the direct consultations it is holding with Iraq in this regard. He pointed out that he had a telephone conversation with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized that Egypt's principled stand advocates the implementation of all clauses of the UN Security Council resolution, including withdrawal from all territories, in accordance with the detailed plan outlined in the resolution. At the same time, Egypt welcomes the resumption of the UN secretary general's efforts to discuss the implementation of this resolution.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that Iran's acceptance of a cease-fire is, in itself, insufficient and that the forces must be withdrawn to the internationally recognized borders. However, he said, we hope that Iran is now bent on the implementation of the resolution in all its clauses. He said that the situation now requires energetic and intensive consultations by the UN secretary general.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid concluded by saying that he has sent the necessary instructions to the Egyptian mission in New York to coordinate with the Iraqi delegation in this connection.

Mubarak on Acceptance

NC1907105488 Cairo MENA in English 1040 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, July 19—(MENA)—President Husni Mubarak told newsmen today that he hoped that Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 was a serious one and not a sort of maneuvre.

After attending the ceremony of the graduation of a new batch of the military academy, the president said he hoped Iran's acceptance was a genuine one as we all aim at realising peace in the Arab region and in the Gulf area.

He said peoples in the Gulf and the Mideast have had enough of wars, fighting, destruction and draining of resources.

President Mubarak said he has said more than once that peace was a very precious thing that needed sacrifices in order to realise stability for our generations and for the future.

He said he hoped Iran's acceptance of the U.N. resolution was a genuine one and not a tactical one, in order to evade the shooting down by mistake of one or two civilian planes carrying innocent passengers.

On whether Egypt's support of Iraq had influenced Iran's decision to accept the U.N. Security Council resolution, the president said Iraq is an Arab and Islamic country, member state of the Arab League. He said Egypt's link with Iraq is a long-standing historical one adding that his relations with the Iraqi leadership are also strong and good.

He said Egypt does not wish for the eruption of wars between Iraq and Iran, adding that Iraq wants peace and wants to stand along its international borders. He also expressed hope for Iran to respond to the call of peace in the interest and prosperity of the peoples.

President Mubarak further said that contacts between himself and the Iraqi leaderships were constant, adding that President Husayn is a brother and a friend, stressing the excellent ties between the Egyptian and Iraq peoples.

The president expressed hope for peace to prevail in and that construction may start to replace destruction and bloodshed. [sentence as received]

In reply to a query about statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, saying that the halting of the Iraq-Iranian struggle will influence the Arab-Israel conflict as Iraq will direct its guns in another direction, the president wondered if Peres had said such a thing, as news agencies sometimes carried inaccurate news and he, the president, knew Peres to be a man of peace working for peace, and wanting peace. President Mubarak further expressed belief that the Israeli people want peace.

The president said he does not believe that Iraq after halting its Iran [as received] will direct its guns against Israel as we all want a just peace to prevail in the region, in order to build our countries and realise prosperity for our peoples.

Sudanese Defense Minister Concludes Cairo Visit

NC1507171188 Cairo MENA in English 1700 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, July 15—(MENA)—Sudanese Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil left here today for home at the end of a three day visit to Egypt.

While here the Sudanese minister signed together with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah a protocol for technical and military cooperation between Egypt and Sudan.

The Sudanese official was seen off by Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, Egyptian chief of staff, and the Sudanese ambassador here.

Chadian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

Situation 'Calm'

NC1707162188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou arrived in Cairo this afternoon, at the head of a delegation, for a 4-day official visit.

In an arrival statement, he announced that he is bringing a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He said the situation in Chad is calm, despite the violation of Chadian territory by Libyan aircraft. He asserted that his country calls for the normalization of relations with neighboring countries.

He also stated that he will lead his country's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Chadian Joint Committee, at which ways of furthering cooperation in all fields will be discussed.

Receiving the Chadian guest at the airport, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, affirmed that Egypt's position is clear and well-known. Egypt supports the Habre government and its political independence, Ghali declared, adding that Egypt is working for increased cooperation in all areas.

Ghali noted that there is diplomatic cooperation between Egypt and Chad, and referred to the conference of nonaligned foreign ministers due to be held in Cyprus in September. Egyptian diplomacy is based on boosting coordination with African countries, Ghali added.

Committee Meetings Open 18 Jul

NC1807105388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Meetings of the Egyptian-Chadian joint committee opened at the Foreign Ministry here today. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, led Egypt's delegation to the talks, while Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou, who arrived here yesterday, led the Chadian side.

During the session the conferees reviewed the situation in Chad, the Libyan-Chadian conflict, and developments in the Middle East in light of Egypt's efforts to establish peace in the region. The two sides also discussed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in all fields.

In a statement after the talks, Dr Ghali said the Chadian foreign minister handed President Mubarak a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre today. President Mubarak asked the Chadian minister to convey a reply to President Habre. Dr Ghali added that consultation between the two presidents helps bolster bilateral diplomatic and economic relations.

Dr Ghali praised the excellent ties linking Egypt and Chad, as well as the continuing coordination between them over African, international, and nonaligned issues. He noted that several Egyptian experts have been sent to Chad to contribute to Chadian development projects, while some Chadians are being trained in Egyptian universities and institutes.

For his part, Chadian Foreign Minister Lassou said the committee members discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties, noting that some Chadian experts are being trained in various Egyptian institutes.

The committee meetings will continue until 20 July. A joint communique expressing the two countries' views on international issues of common interest is expected at the conclusion of the meetings.

Minister Returns From Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia

NC1507210788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jul (MENA)—Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, returned here this evening from Zurich following an 11-day tour that took him to Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. Dr Makramallah held talks with officials in those countries on ways to promote bilateral economic cooperation.

Court Hears Defendants' Grievance Petition

NC1607140788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—The Cairo Criminal Court today began hearing a grievance petition submitted by 11 defendants involved in the Egypt's Revolution Organization case. In their petition they appeal the order imprisoning them indefinitely pending investigation.

The court hearing began at 1100 today in the presence of all 11 defendants: Mahmud Nur al-Din, Muh'i al-Din 'Adli Rajab, Ahmad 'Ali Muhammad 'Ali, Nazmi Sayyid Ahmad, Muhammad 'Ali Sharf al-Din, Sami 'Abd al-Fattah Ahmad, Jamal 'Abd al-Hafiz Mahmud, Hamid Muhammad Ibrahim, Usamah Muhammad Khalil, Mahmud Muhammad Yusuf Jum'ah, and Ahmad 'Isam al-Din al-Sayyid.

'Abd al-Sami' Sharaf, president of the State Security Prosecution, called for continued imprisonment of the defendants and for not releasing them pending investigation. He noted that during their interrogation, the defendants admitted to breaking the law and committing the crimes attributed to them. He said that the release of the defendants would be dangerous, as they may flee abroad and contact the absconded defendants who have not been interrogated. This may affect the proceedings of the case. The prosecution said that there is no known place of residence for most of the defendants. Should they be released, he said, they may commit other crimes having unpredictable consequences.

The defense panel demanded the release of the defendants on the basis that their places of residence are known and that they will attend the court hearings. The defense panel said it has not yet been proved that the defendants had established contacts in the interest of a foreign country and that they had attempted to overthrow the government, carry out hostile acts against the regime, or take bribes.

The defense panel reviewed the Israeli violations against the Arab nation, including the repeated acts of aggression against the Arab people in Lebanon and in the occupied Arab territories, the strikes against an Iraqi nuclear reactor and the Palestinians in Tunis, and the assassination of Palestinian leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

The court adjourned its hearing until tomorrow to enable the defense panel to continue pleading its case.

Three Released on Bail

NC1807100588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—The Supreme State Security Court today decided to release on bail three defendants held in indefinite custody in connection with the Egypt's Revolution case. According to the court decision, defendants Usamah Khalil and Hamid Muhammad Ibrahim will be released on bail of 500 Egyptian pounds each and defendant Mahmud Muhammad Yusuf Jum'ah will be freed on 2,000 pounds bail.

Eleven defendants in the Egypt's Revolution case have submitted a grievance petition to the court appealing the order for their indenfinite imprisonment. [passage omitted]

Effect of 'Uprising' on Israeli 'Confidence' Seen

JN1707182788 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 16 Jul 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Israel's Failure and the Peace Option"]

[Text] Press reports from the occupied territories affirm that Israeli officials have started dealing with the Palestinian uprising as a fait accompli. Reports note a clear change in the way Israeli officials are talking about the uprising. After threatening to quell the uprising as soon as possible, these officials are indicating that they are dealing with it on the assumption that it may continue for months and even years.

International observers are of the opinion that the uprising has greatly weakened Israeli confidence in the efficacy of violence and repression to quell the uprising and the mutiny. They believe that the uprising has proved the Israeli Army's clear failure to confront an unprecedented kind of warfare which it has not been trained to face.

Since its establishment, the Israeli Army has been capable of launching blitzkriegs and occupying territories, relying on mobilizing and using all of its forces and resources and exploiting all the regional and international circumstances and media. Israel would then begin to change the identity of the territory it occupies by building settlements and forcing the original inhabitants to leave their homes and emigrate.

However, now that the Palestinian national awareness has increased and the uprising people are adhering to their Unified Leadership, boys carrying stones and Molotov cocktails have forced the Israeli war machine to despair and panic and compelled the Israeli officials to make statements reflecting their impasse. They have used a new language with which the Israeli citizens and media are not familiar. This fact was demonstrated by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin when he said that from the economic viewpoint, Israel cannot bear the expenses of quelling the uprising.

With all its power and arrogance, Israel has been unable to destroy the Palestinian uprising. Arab officials and Palestinian factions should bear this in mind. By fighting each other outside the occupied territories, these Palestinian factions are presenting to Israel a much desired chance to catch its breath and think of a more effective weapon with which to wipe out the uprising. If the Arabs become aware of the value of their solidarity and coordination, they will place the Israeli Government between the jaws of a pincer called the peace option.

Israel Blamed for Greek Tourist Ship Attack

NC1907091288 Cairo Television Service in English 1715 GMT 18 Jul 88

["Spotlight on the News" program by Salim Rizqallah]

[Excerpts] When we say that despite Iran's hysterical threats following the airliner disaster there would be no retaliation, at least for the time being, since Tehran had a lot to gain by keeping matters as they are and a lot to lose by striking back and getting even, our assessment was by no means a matter of conjecture, but an evaluation based on clear-cut indications that the Khomeyni regime was all out to make full use of the sympathetic shift in the international mood triggered by the tragedy of the Iranian civilian airliner.

In other words, much as Tehran's ultimate objectives in the Gulf remained ever the same, with no thought of giving up the morbid dreams of the Khomeyni ideology, Iran felt the airliner disaster, grim as it is, to be a golden opportunity to win world sympathy and support, which were not only sadly lacking for many years now because of Iranian intransigence, violence, aggression, and above all contempt for Security Council Resolution 598 for an end to the Gulf war, but were recently distanced all the more by a jubilant world mood prompted by Iraqi military successes which all hoped might help curb Khomeyni's whims and adventures.

Tehran's present day tactics therefore are not for retaliation but for world sympathy and support that would give Iran a desperately needed breathing space to recuperate from her successive military defeats and try to change the war tide. Iran's surprise announcement of acceptance of Resolution 598, however, should be viewed with great caution, until Iran's true intentions are revealed. Which brings us to the terrorist attack on a Greek tourist ship in the Aegean. [passage omitted]

Two days after the attack on the Greek ship, the French radio station in Paris received an anonymous phone call claiming that the terrorists belonged to the pro-Iranian Jihad organization based in Lebanon, while another faction calling itself the Martyrs of the Palestinian Popular Revolution also claimed responsibility for the attack. The latest is an allegation that one of the terrorists is a Frenchman who was caught in the blaze and died, an allegation which Paris refuted categorically and which brought a heated argument with the Greek authorities.

Such chaotic developments and contradicitons show beyond the least doubt that the attack on the Greek tourist vessel in the Aegean is not an act of Iranian retaliation for the airliner disaster, but an outright conspiracy by those who have missed no opportunity ever to fish in troubled waters for self-styled ends.

By striking at Greek interests, Israel thought she would hit two birds with one stone, to use the old cliche: one, to punish Greece for the evenhanded policy adopted by Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou in the Palestinian problem; and two, to get Athens to change her course 180 degrees, acting upon a false impression that Arab terrorists are behind such treacherous crime against Greek interests, and therefore the Arabs are not worthy of support. [passage omitted]

But this time the veil used by Israel to mask her plot was too flimsy to deceive anyone. We say this time because it is by no means the first act of state terrorism to be committed by the Israeli Government in the short period of but a few months. [passage omitted]

This whole operation conflicted with the very basics of logic so that all claims and arguments to counter up a false impression crumbled. For one thing, is it conceivable that on the very eve of the Security Council debate on the Iranian airliner disaster Tehran should embark on a terrorist act of retaliation, when world sympathy and support are so desperately needed at this juncture? Then again, if retaliation there was, surely it would be directed squarely against American interests and not against a Greek tourist ship cruising the Aegean.

As for the emergence of a Lebanese, or a woman holder of a Moroccan passport, or a Frenchman, or whatever, it is clear to all that mercenaries do exist and are ready for anything for a price, never out of conviction, which is the privilege only nationalists fighting for a cause have. Surely Israel had no difficulty hiring or recruiting such elements. After all, they have an entire combat force under their command which has come to be known as the South Lebanon Army, ready for action upon Israeli orders.

Another point which the perpetrators of the criminal act in Greece could not predict is that the two innocent victims killed in the car blast which went off 6 hours before the attack on the Greek ship were Arabs living in the vicinity. An Iranian newspaper was found by the Greek authorities near the car wreckage, evidently planted there deliberately by those who engineered the whole operation. How naive. So far, well and good. But why Greece? Why should Greece be the Israeli target? For one thing, Prime Minister Papandreou has deferred a decision to raise the Israeli diplomatic mission to ambassadorial level because of Israel's brutal repressive measures against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab land.

Again, under the rotation system, the Greek prime minister happens to be the president of the Common Market as of 1st July for a period of 6 months. And here it should be recalled that early in the month the European Parliament in Strasbourg has deferred voting on three trade protocols between the EC and Israel for the fourth time, still because of Israeli crimes in the occupied Arab territories. This is the first time in the history of the EC that endorsement of such protocols is withheld.

Surely Israel had a lot to gain had the European Common Market, its actual president Greek Prime Minister Papandreou, and the European Parliament been taken in by that treacherous plot against the tourist ship in the Aegean and believed that the Arabs and the Palestinians were behind that criminal terrorist act which claimed 9 innocent lives and wounded 90 peaceful holidaymakers of different nationalities.

When the Israeli Government felt her plot was about to backfire and a big scandal was about to break out, it persuaded a so-called extremist Jewish organization to claim responsibility for the horrendous terrorist act against the Greek tourist vessel. The Israeli group, which calls itself the Jewish Defense Association, led by Rabbi Ma'ir Kahana claimed it had launched the attack in protest against what it called Greek support to the PLO. One whole week of silence after that terrorist crime before an Israeli Jewish organization comes up with that new claim as a cover-up for outright Israeli state terrorism.

With traditional arrogance, the Israeli Government could never predict it will get so tragically entangled in the web of its own doing. Surely Prime Minister Papandreou, the European Common Market, and the European Parliament should be all the more convinced by now that their past reservations with Israel are incompatible with the dimensions of her plunder and pattern of violence.

AL-AKHBAR Criticizes Shultz 'Mission' in China

NC1807053588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2137 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—The Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR has criticized U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' attempt during his recent visit to Beijing to pressure the Chinese Government not to supply some Arab countries with medium-range missiles to protect themselves against any aggression they might face. It points out that some analysts have described Shultz' visit to China as a special mission on behalf of Israel.

In tomorrow's editorial the paper says that Beijing and other capitals are not ignorant of the aim of Shultz' visit: to protect Israel by preventing any Arab country from possessing advanced weapons with which they could threaten Israel, should any new military conflict erupt or confront the aggressions the Tel Aviv rulers repeatedly direct against Arab territories, confident of what the reactions will be.

AL-AKHBAR adds that officials in Washington and the U.S. Congress have forgotten that even if the Shultz mission had succeeded it would not prevent the Arabs from obtaining the weapons they need to protect their security and peoples against enemies lying in wait for them in various places.

Concluding, the paper stresses that it would be more useful for the United States and Israel to seriously and sincerely seek peace based on justice in this explosive region.

Libya

Iraqi President Thanks Al-Qadhdhafi for Support

LD1807123088 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn today expressed his deep appreciation of the brother leader of the revolution's statement concerning the proposal put forward by Iraq to end the Gulf war.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz conveyed today to the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Baghdad, President Saddam Husayn's thanks and appreciation to the brother leader of the revolution for his support of the Iraqi proposal. [passage omitted]

Iranian Envoy Meets Foreign Secretary Al-Talhi

LD1907060488 Tehran IRNA in English 0556 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, July 19, IRNA—Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Tripoli Mohamad Shahabi met with Libyan Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi here Monday and briefed him on U.S. downing of the Iranian jetliner over the Persian Gulf waters on July 3.

The Iranian diplomat also expressed gratitude of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati for Libya's stance towards the tragic incident.

Al-Talhi condemned U.S. crime and reiterated Libya's support for Iran in its campaign against U.S. imperialism. He stressed that Libya considered defending Iran against the U.S. imperialism as its Islamic duty. He also praised Iran's support for his country.

Al-Humaydi Ends Talks, Visit in Algeria

LD1507195588 Tripoli JANA in English 1641 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Last night, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi concluded a [word indistinct] day visit to sisterly Algeria during which he took part in the meetings of the Maghreb Committee that had stemmed from the quintuple summit held by the leaders of the Arab Maghreb to lay the practical and the executive foundations for the big Arab Maghreb unity which had been concluded at noon yesterday in Algiers.

A big official farewell was given to Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi at "Houari Boumediene" airport on his departure for Great Jamahiriyah in which Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, the member of the Political Bureau in charge of the permanent secretariat of the Algerian National Liberation Front's Party was leading the ceremony. Took [as received] part in the farewell ceremony were: Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the member of the Political Bureau, the minister of foreign affairs, El-Hadi Khediri the minister of the interior, a number of senior officials in the party and in the government, Algeria's ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah, the secretary and the members of the Libyan Arab brotherhood Bureau in Algiers.

Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi gave a statement to the press and to the radio on his departure expressing his deep relief and high appreciation and thanks to the brotherly Algerian Arab people for their good reception and generous hospitality, praising the active and positive role of the Algerian leadership headed by freedom-fighter President Chadli Bendjedid who has given a boost to make a success the work of the Maghreb Committee assigned with laying the executive steps and foundations to build the Arab Maghreb.

In his statement, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi asserted: "In our first meeting we took advanced steps. Any unity process starts with taking one step and we today have taken such a step forward on the road of Maghreb unity."

He concluded "The outcome of the meeting was the laying of practical foundations for the unity action. Specialised committees have been set to implement the practical and executive proposals which were based on scientific and logical studies for future launch."

At noon yesterday, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi attended the final session of the Maghreb Committee which issued a press release which reads as follows:

"In accordance with the guidelines given by the leaders of the Arab Maghreb states who met in Algiers on 10 Al-Sayf [June] 1988, the Maghreb Committee has met in Algiers on 13 and 14 of Nasser [July] 1988 in an atmosphere of confidence and the spirit of fraternity and responsibility. Deep frank discussions were carried out on a number of issues relating to the establishment of the unified Arab Maghreb. The meeting's session were crowned by practical resolutions relating to the fields of organization, structure, education, culture, economy, finance, security of the regions, and matters of social and humane nature, at the end of the session, decision was reached on setting specialised sub-committees assigned with the task of preparing assessments of all projects that will be put forward to the Maghreb Committee, which is to convene on 24 of Al-Tomor—October—in Rabat—the Kingdom of Morocco."

Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi who arrived last Tuesday to Algiers has met in Algiers—on the sidelines of the meetings—with Mohamed Cherif Messaadia and Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister of Tunisia.

Algiers's Messaadia Hails Relations

LD1507164088 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Algiers, 15 Jul (JANA)—Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official of the FLN Party Permanent Secretariat, has hailed the great developments in Libyan Arab-Algerian relations and the [word indistinct] which have been achieved in various fields and which fulfill the aspirations of the united Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Algeria. In a statement to JANA, he said [words indistinct] the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria are working with one objective in mind, that is, to unify the Arab Maghreb as a first step on the road to Arab unity.

Algerian Construction Minister Arrives 17 Jul

LD1701192880 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Abdelmalek Nourani, the Algerian minister for housing and construction, and the delegation in his company arrived in Tripoli on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to the correspondent of JANA on his arrival, the Algerian minister expressed his pleasure at being in Great Jamahiriyah especially at this period and atmosphere prevalent in the whole Arab Maghreb.

He pointed out that his presence in Great Jamahiriyah shows the launch and effectiveness of the decisions taken at the political level between Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

He added that 'we aspire to reach effective results so add to contribute towards we are wishing to build as Arab individuals and people. [sentence, opening quotation mark as received]

Reportage on Somali Foreign Minister's Visit

Received by Foreign Secretary

LD1607161688 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 16. JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau met this morning in Tripoli Dr Mohamed Ali Hamud, the foreign minister of Somalia.

The meeting, attended by the delegation accompanying the foreign minister and the Somalian ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah, discussed ways to develop cooperation between Great Jamahiriyah and Somalia.

Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1707123288 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0705 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Jul JANA—The brother leader of the revolution has received the Somali foreign minister who conveyed to him a message from Mohamed Siad Barre, president of Somalia.

Departs 17 Jul

LD1707143988 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Dr Mohamed Ali Hamud, the Somali foreign minister, left Tripoli at noon today after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Dr Mohamed Ali Hamud made a statement to JANA before his departure from Tripoli International Airport in which he pointed out that his meetings during this visit were fraternal and fruitful. Viewpoints were exchanged on urgent Arab issues and bilateral relations.

The Somali foreign minister also expressed his wish to continue these meetings to advance the wheel of cooperation and progress.

Communications Protocol Signed in Hanoi

LD1807203888 Tripoli JANA in English 1434 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Shahr Nasser [July] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Recently a protocol has been concluded in Hanoi between Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Vietnam on transport and communications.

The protocol have [as received] been signed by the secretary of the People's Committee for Communications and Marine Transport and by the Vietnamese minister of transport and communications.

Meanwhile, Mr. Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, has received the Libyan Arab secretary of the People's Committee for communications and Marine Transport expressing his pleasure over the existing relations between the two countries. He has also paid tribute to the struggle waged by the LIbyan Arab people for freedom.

Mr. Khanh has asked the Libyan Arab People's Committee secretary for communication his [as received] greetings and that of his government and people to the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people.

During this meeting, the two sides have underlined the necessity of promoting the bilateral relations in various spheres.

Editor Criticizes Lubbers Visit to Israel

LD1807041188 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Shahr Nasser [July] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The editor of Arab affairs in JANA has condemned the visit of the prime minister of Holland to the Zionist enemy.

The editor pointed out that the visit of the prime minister of Holland is not a visit of diplomatic meaning, but we understand the visit as a racist stance hostile to the Arabs. Also it is a biased stance in favour of the Zionist enemy. For how can this visit be interpreted otherwise as it is taking place at a time Zionist occupying forces are committing the ugliest forms of repression, oppression and terrorism against the Arabs in occupied Palestine. And at a time these acts must be condemned and the world turn to boycotting this Zionist cancer threatening human civilization and to put an end to it.

The editor made clear that the Government of Holland must know that its interests and those of the people of Holland lie in maintaining good relations with the Arab nation including political and economic relations and not in provoking Arabs and setting up bridges with their enemy which the international community unanimously declared as a form of racism the world must fight against like the regime of South Africa.

The editor asserted that Holland, which is one of the seats of the United Nations, must respect the conventions and resolutions of this international organisation which all its pages are full of condemnations of the enemy and deplore its crimes as Nazi crimes.

The editor concluded his commentary by saying that this step will not honour the people of Holland and that any future talk by Holland of antiracism and terrorism and the defence of civilized values will be lacking to any credibility and meaningless from the moment the prime minister of Holland set his feet on the soil of occupied Palestine.

Before all this, the Arab countries are required to revise their relations with Holland and determine them in accordance with the new position of Holland.

Briefs

ROK Minister Received

Tripoli, Shahr Nasser [July] 13, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau has met this morning the minister of construction of South Korea and his accompanying delegation who are currently on a visit to Great Al-Jamahiriyah. The meeting was also attended by the South Korean ambassador accredited to Great Al-Jamahiriyah. The two sides have deliberated upon ways of cooperation between Great Al-Jamahiriyah and South Korea and means for promoting it. [Text] [*LD1507023088 Tripoli JANA in English 1419 GMT 13 Jul 88*]

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Says Garang Backed Down From Meeting

JN1807111388 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum July 18 (SUNA)—The second uprising forces conference which wound up session in Wad Madani (capital of the Central Region) Friday night has called for revision of already passed budget for fiscal 1988/1989.

The conference recommended emancipation of the Sudanese Economy from yielding to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

It had voiced its rejection of a plan for privatizing part of public sector and called for self reliance and promotion of local industries.

The conference has called for a cease-fire in the fighting now going in the south and for preparation for the constitutional conference besides postponement of enforcement of law substitute to September 1983 legislation provided that these alternative laws be subject to wide discussion by all sectors of the society.

The uprising forces conference has recommended the Koka Dam agreement as an ideal and comprehensive framework for peace provided that participation in this agreement be increased.

The conference expressed support to the alternative legislations proposed by the national (?accord) committee chaired by Member of the Council of the State Advocate Mirghani al-Nasri.

It has appealed to the government and Sudan People's Liberation Movement SPLM to halt escalation of military operations and information campaigns and to resume democratic dialogue for reaching peace.

The gathering has demanded seizure of arms in possession of some circles.

It has also called for provision of relief for the needy civilians, specially in the war zones.

Addressing the opening session last Thursday night, Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has underlined that his government has been flexible in its search for peace and has offered a number of peace initiatives which have all been turned down by rebel movement.

He has disclosed that rebel leader John Garang has backed down from a meeting arranged between him and prime minister in Zurich by former Nigerian President Obasanjo, former Sudanese Foreign Minister Francis Deng, and a former Swiss head of state.

"The government has prepared itself for the encounter but was surprised by Garang's backing down only thirty minutes before the meeting on orders by powers which control him withering away the last hope of this mediation" Al-Mahdi said.

Al-Mahdi added that the rebel movement had not till now responded to a peace offer carried to Ethiopia by Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu Salih as part of a plan for peace in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea.

The prime minister has told the conference that the proposed Islamic legisilation will be presented for a wide discussion at all levels.

He underlined that the rights of the Muslim majority will be observed while those of the non-Muslims will be maintained. He described as futile intimidation fist-raising in tackling this issues of Islamic laws.

"There is no separation of religion from politics in any nation of the world" Al-Mahdi reiterated adding that the laws inherited from the colonial era were not clean of church and Christianity like any other Islamic states that was under colonial rule.

He added that the bill now before the Council of Ministers is one of several bills and the council will exercise its power for discussing them and for taking its decision on them.

The prime minister has denied that his government has yielded to the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund because he said the government has not yet reached an agreement with them though agreement has been reached only on some points.

Al-Mahdi Discusses Security in Darfur Region

JN1807102988 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, July 18 (SUNA)—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met here yesterday with leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali-Mirghani who returned from a tour to Darfur Region recently.

The meeting discussed the situation in Darfur in the fields of services and security. The meeting also discussed the current political situation in the country.

Part One of Address by SPLA's John Garang

EA1507142688 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Part one of speech by John Garang de Mabior, SPLM-SPLA chairman and commander in chief; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Compatriots, dear countrymen: I greet you in the name of the Sudanese revolution, in the name of a new Sudan, a new, united and democratic Sudan of peace, justice, equality, and progress, a new Sudan with a new personality, a new identity, a prosperous, confident, proud, and great new Sudan.

Today I am obliged by my responsibilities to the nation and to you, the people of our beloved Sudan, to address you, because our country is, more than ever before, at the brink of disaster. The present government of national disunity in Khartoum appears now, more than ever before, determined on escalating the war and exacerbating national discord by enacting laws that discriminate among the Sudanese people on the basis of religion.

Under the projected Islamic Republic of Sudan, which the present government of the unholy trinity is plotting day and night to establish, citizens will be defined in terms of their religious belief. A citizen's rights and obligations will be defined on the basis of his or her religion. In practical terms an Islamic Republic of Sudan would mean a full suppression of Sudanese citizens. Muslims and non-muslims would not live together, but rather as Muslim and non-Muslim communities. To all intents and purposes an Islamic Republic of Sudan would amount to a situation of what may be called religious apartheid. This would be a disaster, a destruction of the Sudan.

In order to prepare the necessary conditions for the implementation of this disaster, the regime is now drafting the so-called party organization law, intended to eliminate other political forces and parties that are not in the unholy trinity government of Ummah, National Islamic Front and Democratic Unionist Party [DUP]. The regime is also drafting the so-called new press laws intended to silence the critical press. All these schemes and plots are designed to establish a semi-feudal, pseudo-capitalist, theocratic, civilian dictatorship that would be worse than Numayri's military dictatorship and that would be in direct conflict with the interests and aspirations of the Sudan of the 21st century.

In such times of grave danger and crisis, revolutionaries, patriots, and nationalists must speak out. This is the purpose of my address to you today. I am ringing the bells of alarm to warn you of the ominous black cloud of political, economic, and social crisis that threatens to engulf and destroy our young nation in formation. [passage omitted]

In the struggle to build this new Sudan the SPLM-SPLA is not alone. Other patriots have been and are scoring victories using other forms of struggle suited to their situation. In this connection I also take the opportunity to salute and congratulate the soldiers of the intifada [uprising] of 1964 and 1985. And at this junction, I congratulate the Bar Association for their recent victory, their victory of the referendum in favor of the real forces of the intifada and against the unholy trinity government of sectarianism, reaction, and doom. The victory of the Bar Association makes us more hopeful of the victory of the forces of peace, democracy, justice, equality, progress, and prosperity for our ontry.

Compatriots, fellow countrymen, in my recent statement over Radio SPLA, on 16 May 1988, marking the 5th anniversary of the founding of the SPLM-SPLA we underlined our commitment to join hands with the other forces of peace, democracy, justice, equality, and progress to confront the divisive forces of sectarianism, disunity, bigotry, and doom and search for justice and honorable peace within the context of a new united Sudan. Again, during the recent 25th anniversary celebrations of the OAU, we further elaborated on our peace initiative to certain members of the international press.

But, alas, the war-mongering sectarian bigots in Khartoum who masquerade as national leaders chose to distort and misread our genuine call for peace. Not surprisingly, the de facto government of the unholy trinity took our call for peace as a sign of weakness. Instead of taking the olive branches that we offered, the regime turned the branches into guns and olives into bullets. The regime launched the futile ill-advised rainy season military offensive, based on their mistaken and wishful thinking that the SPLA was weak. The regime, instead of responding to the SPLA'S peace initiatives, kept telling itself and the world that the SPLA was weak, finished, and would be wiped out once and for all.

The regime even set a time limit as to when the SPLA would cease to exist. They said 2 months from the date of formation of the Sadiq three [as heard] government, the SPLA would be finished. That puts our death date to 15 July 1988. Nothing could be farther from the truth and the regime could not be more wrong. The SPLA is neither weak nor can it be wiped out. What force can wipe out a people's revolution? It is unfortunate, but predictable, that the government of the unholy trinity should scorn our peace initiative and mistake it for our weakness. Far from this as a sign of weakness, our quest for peace and justice is our strength and the reason we took up arms in the first place.

We took up arms to bring about peace, peace with justice in the place of peace in injustice. The SPLM/SPLA quest for peace did not begin now. It has a long history. It is on record that our quest for peace dates back to 22 March 1985, before the fall of dictator Numayri, when the SPLM chairman called for direct talks with the Sudanese Army fighting in war zone one and, at the national level, for a national congress involving all Sudanese political forces to discuss and resolve our country's fundamental problems.

Fellow countrymen, before I go into the history of the movement's quest for peace and our position on the peace process, those who beat the drums of war in Khartoum, those who scorn our peace initiative, those who dream that the SPLA is weak and finished, those who delude themselves of achieving military victory over the SPLA, these bigot people deserve to be given a cold shower of facts regarding the real economic, political, and military situation on the ground, lest their imagination and hope carry them away from reality and from a peaceful solution to the conflict.

So what are the facts? Let those who beat the drums of war in Khartoum be reminded that in the last 5 years the SPLM-SPLA made unprecedented achievements. Indeed, with due modesty aside, one can say that few modern liberation movements have made such giant strides in such short a time. Starting with a few rifles in 1983, the SPLM/SPLA has now built a formidable army of peasants, workers, students, and revolutionary intellectuals, an army that now stands at several tens of thousands and equipped with modern weapons, an army that, I daresay, is stronger than that of many African countries. [passage omitted]

Let those who beat the drums of war in Khartoum be further reminded that during Sadiq's 2 years in office the SPLA, for the first time, effectively took the war to what used to be called the north. In southern Blue Nile Province the SPLA overran the strategic garrison towns of Kurmuk and Qaysan and advanced to within artillery range of the Al-Rusayris hydroelectric dam, while in southern Kordofan the SPLA overran the garrison town of Umm Dawrayn. Although these towns were, later on, retaken by the regime, the SPLA had achieved its strategic objective of establishing a firm and permanent foothold in the north.

As I talk to you today, SPLA forces remain in siege of Kurmuk and Qaysan and made deep penetrations to within 15 km of Damazin. To date, the SPLA has recruited thousands of youth from southern Blue Nile and southern Kordofan. Today the major garrison towns of Juba, Wau, Malakal, Torit Bentiu, Aweil, Rumbek, Gogrial, Nasir, Akobo and Yei, Bor Maridi, Mundri, and so on are under siege and threatened. While we call for peace any of these towns can and indeed will fall to the SPLA.

Let those who beat the drums of war in Khartoum be reminded that in the last 2 years Sadiq, as the minister of defense, actually became SPLA's (?ship) quartermaster-general and still continues to be generous. During these 2 years of Sadiq's unfounded arrogance, the SPLA captured thousands of small arms with millions of their ammunition. We underline to the war-mongers in Khartoum that during Sadiq's time the SPLA for the first time captured many heavy weapons in good working condition.

Today, and during Sadiq's time, the SPLA has acquired through capture 10 mm tanks, including three (?T-62) tanks captured in Kurmuk, all in good condition. We have 8 pieces of 122 field artillery guns, 2 pieces of 100-mm mortars, 96 pieces of antitank rocket launchers, RPG-7'S and RPG-2'S, 44 pieces of 60-mm mortars, 37 Gronov heavy machineguns, 42 machineguns, and tons of explosives. All of these weapons and more were captured in good condition during Sadiq's 2 years as prime minister and minister of defense. [passage omitted]

Comrades, fellow countrymen, before I continue, I do not want to leave you with the impression that the SPLM-SPLA has achieved only victory after victory without any problems. That could not be possible. Indeed, that would be unnatural. Nothing in nature or in society develops or moves smoothly without resistance. And of all phenomena, a national liberation movement like ours is based on revolutionary armed struggle, must of necessity mean struggle both from within and from without. That is the only way it could move forward.

There has therefore been, there had to be, and there will continue to be internal as well as external factors that impact adversely on the attainment of our objectives. Internally, for example, we had to contain the elements of separatism, tribalism, and opportunism. Externally, we had to grapple with the problems created by the enemy in their futile attempts to infiltrate our leadership, with the aim to salvage and preserve the old Sudan by accommodating the SPLM-SPLA through some form of sham peace. In the form of their sectarian nonobjective thinking the rulers of Khartoum misread the dialectics of revolution as symptoms of SPLA'S weakness.

Again they could not be more wrong. Far from weakening the SPLM-SPLA, these problems and challenges have enriched and strengthened the movement. With each new problem, each new challenge to overcome, the movement reached a higher qualitative level in its growth and draws closer to achieving its objectives of nation formation, national renaissance, and national liberation which will [word indistinct] in our slogan of creation of the new Sudan. Far from being cause for alarm or worry to members, supporters and sympathizers of the movement, the (?correct) resolution of these problems are indicators of the movement's solidity and strength. They indicate that the movement is of age and it is here to stay. Our strength has always been and will remain the firmness, the steadfastness, and the persistence in the goals we have set ourselves to achieve.

This resolve is instilled in us by the support of the masses of our people and the growing level of awareness of the SPLA soldiers. The SPLA soldier has been vigilant. His vigilance has been the movement's strongest shield. This vigilance is based on the correct and concrete realization by the rank-and-file of the SPLA that the movement belongs to each and everyone of them and to all the Sudanese people, not to certain ethnic or regional groups as the enemies of the revolution would like to believe or make others to believe.

Nor does it belong to individuals such as John Garang or any other members of the political-military high command. The SPLA rank-and-file believe and are convinced that the SPLA-SPLM is their only hope to restore their dignity as individuals and as their collectivity, as well as to restore Sudan's dignity, democracy, justice, prosperity and greatness. Any internal or external attempt to abort the people's revolution are, therefore, met with collective defense by the SPLA rank-and-file. This explains the growing solidity and cohesiveness of the SPLM-SPLA since its formation in 1983.

Compatriots, fellow countrymen, I have endeavored to show that our peace initiative is genuine and not based on Sadiq's imagined weakness of the SPLM-SPLA, either internally within the movement or externally as a result of military pressure by Khartoum. I have shown that the SPLA is strong and growing stronger than ever. In this connection, I am happy to announce to you that this strength has been recently consolidated by the movement's tireless efforts to merge the Anya Nya II into the SPLA.

While the sectarian unholy trinity government in Khartoum will continue to divide the Sudanese people for its own selfish and unpatriotic ends, the movement is committed to unite the Sudanese people everywhere. I congratulate the former Anya Nya II leader, Comrade Gordon Kong Chuol, for his brave and patriotic decision to heed the movement's call to abandon the regime of doom in Khartoum and to join hands with the people's movement.

The merger of Anya Nya II into the SPLA has further greatly weakened the regime, depriving it of human cannon-fodder that it used around its garrisons in Upper Nile. Today, as I talk to you, more than 80 percent of Anya Nya II forces have already been incorporated into the SPLA, and Comrade Gordon Kong Chuol himself has been appointed alternate member of the SPLM-/SPLA political-military high cammand. This development should further convince Sadiq to accept peace, as well as a (? root) reminder that arming the Sudanese people against each other is a futile and dangerous double-edged sword.

Sooner or later the government-sponsored tribal militias will find out that they are being deceived, that the military ranks accorded to them such as brigadier sultan are meaningless, and they will, like Anya Nya II, turn the criminal's guns against the criminals. The movement has in this connection already warned the Murahilin, Toposa, and Didinga tribal militias, and will continue to do everything to win the Mundari tribal militia and the Fertit and Rizayqat tribal militias despite the wanton atrocities committed by these militias. A government that arms its own people against each other in order to survive can only succeed to dig its own grave and such is the fate of the unholy trinity in Khartoum.

Compatriots, fellow countrymen, the economic crisis facing our country is at best very grim. And this is compounded and exacerbated by the war which the regime is determined to escalate. It is the government of Sadiq that does not want an end to the war, and as long as the war lasts, there can be no stability and no social, economic development and the suffering of our people can only increase. By today's end the regime will have already spent more than $1 million, as it does daily in its futile attempt to achieve military victory over the SPLA. But this is your money. It is the people's money not Sadiq's. It should be spent on your health, the education of your children, construction of roads, purchase of public buses and other basic needs of the people. [passage omitted]

Compatriots, in addition to this crisis in the economy, our country is threatened by other crises connected with the economy and political crisis. I must bring them to your attention. One is the very serious problem of government-sponsored robbery in the form of tribal militias that are organized and armed by the government.

The regime has the arrogance to call these bandits friendly forces. Since these militias are organized along tribal lines, by implication the government means that there are unfriendly tribes. What monster of a national government divides its citizens into friendly and unfriendly tribes? This is unprecedented in Africa and indeed anywhere else in the world. Today this government's butchers and thugs, that variously go by the name tribal militia, friendly forces or murahilin, operate with impunity, spreading terror, wanton killing of innocent, unarmed civilians, looting and burning of whole village and crops, taking with them cattle, sheep, goats, and slaves. [passage omitted]

Able-bodied persons and children are sold into slavery internally and abroad. The price of a slave is now reported to have dropped from some 500 Sudanese pounds to about 10 pounds, the equivalent of $1. By sponsoring this genocide, this madness of slave raids and slave markets [words indistinct] point where a fellow Sudanese is sold for $1, does the prime minister not realize that his own value as a human being also depreciates to much less than $1? The displaced persons who escape the prime minister's tribal militias and manage to reach Khartoum, [words indistinct] national capital, quickly find out that the government itself [words indistinct].

The tragedy resides in Khartoum in the person of the unholy trinity government. These displaced citizens find no food, no medicine, shelter, or sympathy. They are not welcomed in Khartoum. The government despises and fears them. The SPLA has learned from reliable national and international sources that Sadiq's government is planning a massive operation to evict these destitute Sudanese, about 1 million of them, from Khartoum to what the regime calls productive centers, meaning forced unpaid labor, to the farms of the rich landlord supporters of the three ruling sectarian parties. Furthermore, the SPLA has received reports that several of these landlords have already applied to get the number they need of these unfortunate citizens.

Yet more disturbing reports reveal that the government or its agents have already received down-payments from some of these landlords for the undelivered goods. This unholy trinity government has become so bad as to sell its own citizens. The government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has become a slave trader. The world conscience must condemn this legalized barbarity. The human rights violations by Sadiq's government are no different from those of apartheid South Africa. The Sudanese people have a political duty to rid themselves of this cancerous government of the unholy trinity. The international community has the moral duty to condemn it.

Fellow country men, the economic, political, and moral bankruptcy of the unholy trinity government in Khartoum and its desperate attempt to hang on to power at all costs have left the doors of our country open to foreign countries to violate our territorial integrity. This is a serious threat to the unity of our country. In western Sudan, there are foreign military forces that came to our country uninvited and that do not fall under the control of any Sudanese authority. To be precise, these foreign forces now number 6,500 officers and men and they are increasing in number. They roam the area at will, spreading panic and terror among the citizens of the region.

The government is silent about this foreign penetration of our territory because the presence of these foreign troops in Darfur is one of the prices paid to foreign powers who have paid money and weapons to some of Khartoum's sectarian rulers. These foreign troops in Darfur are instigating Sudanese communities in the area against each other. They have already armed certain tribes against others. They are connected with the recent battle for (Jabal Marat) in which Darfur people repulsed an attempt to dislodge them from their ancestral homes.

The prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, is responsible and accountable for the fighting in Darfur. The SPLA supports the call of the people of Darfur on Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to see to it that these foreign forces leave Darfur. These foreign forces must go. They are dangerous to the stability and unity of our country. The SPLA has also learned of another presence of foreign troops in the northeastern tip of our country. These foreign troops also came to the Sudan uninvited and stay uninvited. They must also go.

Compatriots, another problem that confronts us is partly the responsibility of the government but it is mostly vested in us by nature—it is the problem of drought caused by nature and the problem of desertification, but which the government can do something about. Many parts of our country are threatened by famine as a result of the drought and this is exacerbated by the war.

A responsible government should do everything to produce and stock food reserves against drought, while in the immediate short-term it is necessary to appeal to the international community for relief and rehabilitation assistance. In the south alone about 3 million people are threatened with starvation. In southern Blue Nile and southern Kordofan about 1 million people are affected, bringing the total in the drought and war-affected areas to about 4 million.

On our side, the SPLA has tried its best using the limited information media at our disposal to bring this tragedy to the attention and conscience of the international community. Over the last 4 months the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, has been working with both the SPLM-SPLA and Sadiq's government to find ways and means to reach relief to war-displaced and drought-affected people of southern Sudan.

It was in early March 1988, that the ICRC presented to the movement a program of action to provide relief both to the government and SPLA towns under security guarantees by the two sides. It did not take the SPLM-SPLA more than 1 day to endorse the ICRC relief program. After securing the SPLM-SPLA approval and security guarantees, the ICRC went to Khartoum to secure a similar understanding and security arrangement. But those who rule from Khartoum do not understand nor feel the plight of the people. The prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, dragged his feet and double-talked for 3 months.

It was not until the end of May 1988 that the ICRC informed us that Khartoum had finally given its blessing. Although Khartoum had delayed unnecessarily, the approval was a positive sign that a humanising trend might have set in in Khartoum. But the (? breeze), if it was there to begin with, was shortlived. Sadiq quickly reversed his position when it came to actual implementation of the relief program. The ICRC program stipulated (? it would start with survey flights) to three government-held towns and to three SPLA-held towns. The SPLA honored its part of the agreement and allowed the ICRC to make the survey flights to the government-held towns of Juba, Malakal, and Wau in Early June 1988.

When these survey flights were completed on the government side, the ICRC asked for survey flights to the SPLA-held towns of Akun and Yirol, both in Bahr al-Ghazal and to Kongor in Upper Nile. Mr Sadiq reneged on the agreement and gave the ICRC a no, telling them that instead he would only allow relief supplies to government-held towns. Sadiq, true to character, dishonored an agreement he had made with the ICRC within days of reaching that agreement. To us in the movement and those who know the man well, it came as no surprise that when it came to real action of providing relief, Sadiq had to back down on his words.

In one of our talks with the ICRC we asked them a straightforward question as to why they thought Sadiq would agree to relief assistance to reach the people of southern Sudan when it is the prime minister's declared policy to starve and exterminate the people of southern Sudan. Mr Sadiq had said this openly over the BBC in 1986 and should he respond positively to the ICRC relief program, this would surely be a contradiction, we agreed. The ICRC official in question said that they would try their best and added that based on earlier preliminary meetings they had with the government, they had reason to the hopeful.

Well, this is the story of the ICRC relief program and how Sadiq has been trying to abort it. As I talk to you today, the ball of relief to southern Sudan is still in Sadiq's court. The ICRC has already completed its survey flights to the government-controlled towns of Juba, Malakal, and Wau and we are waiting for the ICRC to make survey flights to the three SPLA-held towns of Akun, Yirol, and Kongor.

After the survey flights are completed, the real relief flights will begin to the six towns of Juba, Malakal, Wau, Akun, Yirol, and Kongor and subsequently to other affected areas and shall be agreed upon by the SPLM, Sadiq's government, the ICRC and any other international relief organization. We understand that the ICRC is still talking to the Khartoum government and that Mr Sadiq is still dragging his feet and shuffling and reshuffling his political considerations with respect to this vital issue.

All the same, I take this opportunity to appeal to the international community and the Sudanese people to find ways and means to help the victims of drought and war in southern Sudan.

Such assistance can be channelled through the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, with headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, and to contact its secretary-general, Dr Richard K. Mula,.

Part Two of Address

EA1507170988 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Part two of speech by John Garang de Mabior, SPLM-SPLA chairman and commander in chief; date, place not specified—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Sudanese tragedy that Sadiq describes as an oasis of democracy is, in fact, a desolate desert of dictatorship that threatens to bury the nation and people in the sandstorms of sectarianism. Compatriots, the very grave problems that I have been discussing, the problems of the economy, the crisis in government, armed robbery and government sponsored militias, foreign troops in our country that came uninvited, the question of democracy, drought, famine, relief and rehabilitation, all these problems can be solved only if the war ends and there is peace. Peace with justice ushering in economic and social development.

But the unholy trinity government in Khartoum does not want peace; they want a military victory which they cannot achieve. They only talk and double talk about peace while in fact they prepare for yet another military offensive to, as they say, wipe out the SPLA once and for all.

But, (?we all) know the truth. All government military offensives not only failed but led to more SPLA victories. Khartoum's record on genuine desire and actions to bring about peace is as poor as their performance in the field. In order to fully appreciate why peace has been eluding us ever since the intifada: it is necessary to briefly explore the history of attempts at a peace settlement. [passage omitted]

Instead of creating conditions for a ceasefire, Sadiq increased fire in his ill-fated 1986-87 dry season military offensive which cost him the loss of Pibor and Jokau to the SPLA. And as if that lesson was not sufficient to teach Sadiq the futility of seeking a military victory he again launched another disasterous dry season military offensive in 1987-88. This time it caused Sadiq the loss of Kurmuk, Qaysan, and Kapoeta to the SPLA.

Now that the 1988 dry season is over Sadiq has fallen yet under another illusion. Sadiq and those around him think that the SPLA has run out of ammunition, and that the movement suffers from internal divisions and, consequently, Sadiq thinks that this is his opportunity to defeat the SPLA.

One of Sadiq's southern ministers was recently asked in an international conference in Geneva how negotiations between the government and the SPLA were progressing. True to form the fool rhetorically asked: What negotiations? The SPLA, he said, is finished.

So intense is the illusion of SPLA imminent defeat in Khartoum that Sadiq committed his troops in an ill-fated, ill-advised, rainy season offensive this last June in hopes of wiping out the SPLA. His tanks, artillery, and trucks are now bogged down in eastern Upper Nile and eastern Equatoria, fighting first with our friendly forces of rain, mud, mosquitoes, and snakes before the SPLA wipes them out.

The SPLA has already wiped out one of Sadiq's brigades between Juba and Torit in the last 14 days, and his other forces await the same fate. His so-called deterrent brigade now stationed in Juba will soon be destroyed. The SPLA knows what to do with it; we know their next move and we know where to destroy them.

Sadiq is best advised to abandon warmongering and to speak for peace. Otherwiase he is in for bigger surprises and bigger defeats.

Compatriots, the commitment of the SPLM-SPLA to peace is unequivocal and irrevocable. Despite the many obstacles created by the de facto government in Khartoum to abort the Koka Dam peace process, the movement has never abandoned and we have never tired in the search for peace and a peaceful resolution of the Sudanese Conflict.

Many other patriots, such as those in the alliance, have also worked day and night to bring about peace. In this endeavor, we met last year with a delegation of Sudanese bishops to be followed by a series of meetings in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya with the delegation of the Sudan African Parties [USAP] that was led by the Honorable Eliaba James Surur, substituting for the Honorable Rev. Philip Abbas Ghabbush.

Last week the movement met again with the delegation of the USAP, led by the Honorable Mr Andrew Wieu Riak. In all these talks, the necessity for a peaceful solution was underlined with the alliance, with the Sudanese bishops and with the African parties. But, to our disappointment, the prime minister always blocks all peace moves, calling those who come to meet the SPLM-SPLA fifth columnists instead of Sudanese patriots genuinely searching for peace. At one point, the prime minister even went to the extent of forbidding contacts between Sudanese political forces and individuals with SPLM-SPLA under threats of harassment and a charge of the so-called fifth columnism.

Nevertheless, the movement was able to meet all these parties and even the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] and the National Islamic Front [NIF], the two parties that chose to absent themselves from Koka Dam.

At an international level, the movement met and exchanged views on peace with such respected leaders such as the former Nigerian head of state, General Obasanjo, who tried his best at mediation and through whom the SPLM-SPLA conveyed specific peace proposals to the prime minister. But all to no avail.

The movement was recently invited to attend the Interaction Council of former heads of state that met in Harare, Zimbabwe. The government was also invited. Instead of taking advantage of this as a starter to reopen the Koka Dam peace process, Sadiq chose to send a propaganda delegation headed by three-quarters crazy southern politicians.

Finally, in our quest for peace, I recently presented a peace initiative in a press statement during the 25th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the OAU in Addis Ababa. The prime minister first complained that the peace initiative should have been done through proper channels, not the press. This is surely absurd. What proper channels do we have with Sadiq when he calls the movement a terrorist organization? Subsequently, Khartoum launched a major campaign of distortion and misinformation regarding our latest peace initiative with the intentions to kill it.

Compatriots, although the prospects for peace are not bright for as long as the unholy trinity government of the Al-Sadiqs, the Al-Turabis, and the Al-Mirghanis sit in Khartoum, still I must end my address to you today by calling for peace. If the unholy trinity is not interested in peace, as they have indicated from time to time till now, it falls on the Sudanese political forces to bring about peace, with or without them.

Compatriots, the Sudanese people made a giant step forward towards peace when the Koka Dam declaration was signed more than 2 years ago. This declaration and the subsequent meetings of the Joint Liaison Committee have laid a solid foundation for the peace process.

Koka Dam is a purely Sudanese experience, which will go down in history as a magnificent achievement of great significance, for it proved to the whole world that the Sudanese alone can discuss their problems freely and arrive at concrete proposals regarding their resolution.

The resolutions of Koka Dam are as pertinent today as they were 27 months ago when they were adopted as the blueprint to achieve peace in the Sudan. The only obstacle standing in the way of Koka Dam and the convening of a national constitutional conference is the de facto government in Khartoum and, more specifically, the de facto Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who is more preoccupied with securing imamship of the Sudan—and his temporal powers to boot—than about the welfare of the Sudanese people.

It is the responsibility of the Sudanese political forces to reinforce and strengthen Koka Dam. The prime minister has persistently refused to implement the prerequisites stipulated in the Koka Dam delcaration as necessary for the convening of the national constitutional conference. The major argument of Sadiq is that the declaration is not binding on the DUP and the NIF because they did not sign the declaration.

If the only argument against Koka Dam is that the DUP and the NIF were not signatory to the declaration, and if otherwise the government is genuine in wanting a peaceful resolution to the conflict, then I here repeat the peace proposal that I gave to General Obasanjo to convey to Sadiq and which I recently declared over [as heard] the press.

Let us convene another Koka Dam type national gathering, Koka Dam II, (?as a) preliminary to the national constitutional conference and in which all the Sudanese political forces will be present, including the DUP and the NIF that chose not to attend Koka Dam I. This is the proposal.

This proposal entails the strengthening [of, and] not abandoning the Koka Dam declaration and peace process by widening it to include the absentees, the DUP and the NIF. As for the other political forces, they are bound by the Koka Dam declaration and peace process. The necessary measure is to bring into Koka Dam the DUP and the NIF.

Compatriots, the peace we aspire for is attainable provided that patriots and nationalists in our country join hands in serious and genuine search for a just and permanent peace. In this context, and in order to give substance to the peace process under the Koka Dam declaration, the SPLM-SPLA makes the following suggestions and proposals:

1. The SPLM-SPLA calls on the National Alliance for National Salvation [NANS], as the neutral national body, to initiate the preparations for a national gathering, Koka Dam II, which will include all Sudanese political forces and, in particular, to ensure the attendance of the DUP and the NIF. This national constitutional conference.

2. The SPLM-SPLA has also contacted several countries and at least three of them have expressed willingness and readiness to host Koka Dam II. We call on the National Alliance to consult with the various Sudanese political forces. The movement is now ready to receive representatives of the alliance to discuss all matters realted to this peace initiative, including time and venue.

3. As a gesture of goodwill on the side of the SPLM-SPLA, we are now releasing without preconditions one POW, Lieutenant Colonel 'Izz al-Din ('Uthman Siraj), captured in southern Kordofan last year. We request the ICRC to help in the return of Lt Col 'Izz al-Din to join his family and relatives. The release can be made through Kenya, Ethiopia, or Uganda.

4. We renew our earlier offer to exchange POWs through the ICRC, and this for humanitarian reasons as well as to create the necessary conducive atmosphere for Koka Dam II.

5. If the Khartoum Government is not ready or willing to exchange POWs, then the SPLA suggests that the relatives of the POW's held by the SPLA come to SPLA POW camps accompanied by members of the National Alliance so that they can see and meet their loved ones. The SPLM-SPLA guarantees safe conduct to and from the POW camps for the relatives and members of the National Alliance accompanying them.

The POW's are under the command of Lt Col Salim Sa'id of Batch No 24 and former commander of Jokau garrison, which was captured on 31st May 1987. This major [as heard] also will help in providing a conducive atmosphere for holding Koka Dam II.

6. As a gesture of goodwill from the Khartoum government, the movement asks that Amnesty International be allowed to look into human rights violations in the Sudan and especially in Aweil and Gogrial Districts and Wau town.

7. As a gesture of goodwill, I call on General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil [defense minister], a person most of us in the SPLA who know him respect, to disassociate from Major General 'Abu Qurun, the commander of Bahr al-Ghazal, and Maj Gen Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, the commander of the Murahilin tribal militia, to disassociate them from the Sudanese Army.

The officers have killed and caused the deaths of thousands of innocent, unarmed Sudanese citizens in Bahr al-Ghazal. These officers are murderers and criminals who should be arrested and brought to justice.

Gen 'Abu Qurun, for example, forced 6-10 year-old boys to kill their parents with spears while he watched in amusement.

In Wau, at Grinti garrison, he put 62 civilians in an empty ammunition storeroom and gassed them to death by carbon monoxide poisoning passed into the storeroom through an exhaust pipe connected to an APC

[Armored Personnel Carrier]. These are documented facts reported by witnesses, reported in the latest issue of NEW AFRICAN, No 250, of July 1988.

These are not Sudanese Army officers, but criminals run amok in Army uniforms. Gen 'Abd al-Majid, that I knew, has the responsibility to take measures against these two officers by actions staining the image of the Sudanese Army. [sentence as heard] Action against them could also create a conducive atmosphere for Koka Dam II.

8. The movement believes that it is not the international relief organizations alone that should provide relief assistance to the people displaced by war and drought in the Sudan. This should be started at home by the Sudanese people. The SPLM-SPLA therefore calls on concerned Sudanese patriots in Khartoum to organize themselves into a chapter of the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, SRRA, Khartoum branch, and to solicit for funds, food, clothing, and other material in the name of the SRRA.

The SRRA is a voluntary humanitarian association and there is no reason why a branch cannot be registered in Khartoum. Much-concerned citizens are to contact and coordinate with the secretary general of the SRRA, Dr Richard K. Mula, in the Nairobi head office.

Dear compatriots, I end by again bringing to your attention the danger posed by Sadiq three's [as heard] government. He calls it a government of national consensus when it is not. It is a government of family ties, sectarianism, and national disaster. [passage omitted]

Compatriots, from the main features of the cabinet of Sadiq three's government, the shape of things to come can be summarized in the following six points:

1. The economic trend and policy of the new government is clearly directed at the rape and loot of the economy by the banking and other business enterprises associated with the three parties UMMAH, NIF, and DUP—in coalition with the IMF and other international finance capital. Under this regime, the suffering of the people can only increase and the streets will boil with anger, this time not against a military dictatorship but against a sectarian dictatorship.

2. The Ummah-NIF-DUP alliance, the Islamic fundamentalist alliance, is directed against the trade union alliance, secular parties, and against the SPLM-SPLA.

3. The Ummah-NIF-DUP new alliance will work to impose Islamic laws through their mechanical [as heard] majority and the conspiracy of the so-called standing vote in place of the secret ballot.

4. The Ummah-NIF-DUP new alliance will work to suppress the Union of the Sudan African Parties, USAP, through intimidation, harassment and, where possible, by bribery through job offers or even lump sum payments.

5. The new alliance will work to escalate the war, using the Sudanese Army and tribal militias. It is expected that these parties will work to increase the security role of their own party militias in Khartoum itself with the intention to eventually replace the Sudanese Army with a party militia army, as a national army contradicts sectarianism, ending with an ultimate showdown between the national army and the armed forces of the sectarian parties.

6. Bickering, squabbling, and intrigues within the alliance of the Ummah, NIF, and DUP will coontinue and intensify, possibly making the country ungovernable as it had been for a year before this coalition was patched up 2 months ago. The absence of a credible government in Khartoum will continue to impede the peace process.

Dear compatriots, in the light of all that I have said, I end by underlining the necessity for an end to the war and the conclusion of a just peace. While the sectarian parties engage in bickering, squabbling, and the loot of the economy the country will continue to fall apart and our people will continue to suffer.

It is our responsibility of [as heard] all Sudanese patriots to rescue the nation and to throw the sectarian parties where they belong, into the dustbin of history. I therefore end by reiterating two appeals:

1. I repeat my appeal of 22d March 1985 to the Sudanese Army in the south and in the country in general, to start independent talks with the SPLA. The three parties, like Numayri, have nothing to offer except national discord, ruin, and death. While they sit and squabble over the trappings of life in Khartoum it is the Sudanese Army, the SPLA, and the civil population in the war zones that bear the brunt of the war.

I encourage commanders in the war zones to contact SPLA commanders in the field to discuss ways and means to bring about peace, with or without the three Sayyids, and to convey your views to the SPLA General Headquarters.

2. I call on the National Alliance to take up the SPLM-SPLA initiative of convening a Koka Dam II, and to start preparations and contacts with the SPLM-SPLA immediately. Should the sectarian parties and governments place obstacles on the path of Koka Dam II, then as of now I call upon the real forces of the intifada to start preparing for intifada III. The masses overthrew a military dictatorship in intifada I in October 1964. Again they overthrew a military dictatorship in intifada II in April 1985.

The masses have the experience and will to overthrow this civilian sectarian dictatorship in April 1989 and to replace it with a true government and true army of the intifada. Four years is sufficient for the Sudanese people to know the true colors of the three Sayyids.

To the SPLA soldier and SPLM-SPLA supporters and sympathizers, to friends and enemies of the movement alike, and to the Sudanese people, we wish to assure them of this: While maintaining flexibility in the interests of not prolonging the war and the suffering of our people, we assure all that the struggle will continue, whether it rains spears or fire, until justice is achieved within the context of a new united Sudan, a new Sudan of democracy, justice, and equality for all, irrespective of race, religion, or sex.

Long live the SPLM-SPLA! Long live the new Sudan in formation! Victory to the Sudanese people! The struggle continues and victory is certain!

Thank you very much. Greetings, regards, and goodbye until next time. Yours in the struggle, Comrade John Garang.

Bahrain

'Responsible Source' Welcomes Iranian Decision

JN1907105688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1035 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Manama, 19 Jul (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has welcomed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's announcement that Iran has officially accepted UN Security council Resolution No 598 of 1987 to end the Iraq-Iran war. Iraq had earlier accepted this resolution. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of the statement of a responsible source at the Bahraini Foreign Ministry:

The Bahraini Government has received with satisfaction UN Security General Javier Perez de Cuellar's announcement that the Islamic Republic of Iran has officially accepted UN Security Council Resolution No 598 of 1987 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war—a resolution that Iraq had earlier accepted.

This acceptance is a positive step toward achieving security and stability for the region's peoples. It also paves the way for the establishment of a just and lasting peace, which has been awaited by the Islamic nation and its people.

Since the very beginning of the war, the Bahraini Government has exerted efforts and expressed support for all Arab, Islamic, and international efforts to end this war through negotiations in accordance with the international norms and charters, out of its belief that peace and stability are the true demand that brings good tidings to all the region's peoples.

Kuwait

Envoy Rejects Iranian Allegations About Airspace

LD1807214788 Kuwait KUNA in English 1930 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] United Nations, July 18 (KUNA)—Kuwait Monday renewed its rejection of Iranian allegations about the use of Kuwaiti airspace in the Iraq-Iran war.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Muhammad Abu al-Hasan said in a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar his country had repeatedly repudiated these charges and reaffirms its position that it prohibits any non-Kuwaiti party from using its territory, territorial waters or airspace.

"Although Kuwait is not a party to the tragic war that has been raging for many years between Iraq and Iran, it has sought by all means and in all international fora and organisations to find a peaceful, just and honourable solution to this conflict," Abu al-Hasan said.

Reaction to Iranian Acceptance of UN Resolution

'Happiness' Expressed

LD1907090888 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0809 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Jul (KUNA)—Kuwait today expressed its happiness and hope at Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to Iran's war with Iraq.

Kuwait said that the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general should shoulder the responsibility to immediately start implementing, in a comprehensive and indivisible manner, the articles of such a resolution.

Mr Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rudan, minister of state for housing and acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs, said that Kuwait has learned with great happiness and hope the news of Iran's acceptance of Un Security Council Resolution 598, which is a just and honorable formula for ending the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran upon the bases of international legitimacy.

He added in a statement to KUNA today: We hope that the acceptance of this resolution by the friendly Islamic Republic of Iran is in response to the good appeals for peace which the international community as a whole has been expressing since the beginning of the conflict, and as a compliment to fraternal Iraq for its acceptance of such a resolution, which was made as soon as the resolution was adopted on 20 July 1987. [passage indistinct]

More on Al-Rudan Statement

LD1907092788 Kuwait KUNA in English 0811 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 19 (KUNA)—Kuwait Tuesday expressed great rejoice and optimism at Iran's announced acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Acting State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Minister of Housing Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rudan stated that Kuwait hopes the Islamic Republic of Iran would opt for peace on basis of Resolution 598 which Kuwait believes is a just and honorable formula for ending the armed conflict in accordance with international legitimacy.

Kuwait, in welcoming this basic and highly significant step for starting the long overdue peace process and enforcement of Security Council Resolution 598, wishes that this response from the Islamic Republic of Iran is a manifestation of a policy designed to bring comprehensive peace, amity and cohesion, the spokesman said.

Kuwait, Al-Rudan added, believes that a special responsibility now faces the Security Council and the U.N. secretary general to immediately enforce all articles of Resolution 598 according to their order, so as to guarantee just and lasting peace.

The minister indicated that Kuwait also wishes to congratulate all peace-loving peoples and expresses hopes that the noble motives on basis of which the Islamic Republic of Iran government has adopted its decision of accepting Resolution 598 would become a cardinal and firm element of the country's foreign policy.

Concluding, the senior government spokesman said Kuwait expresses its absolute preparedness to cooperate with all benevolent endeavours topped by the U.N. chief to clear the way for execution of Resolution 598 in pursuit of peace, security and stability between Muslim neighbors Iraq and Iran and the entire Arabian Gulf region.

KUNA Comments on Decision

LD1807172588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1418 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 18 (KUNA)—Despite that Iran's decision to accept UN Security Council Resolution 598 was a surprise to observers, it came following a number of indications that pointed to disputes within the Iranian leadership over the feasibility of the continuation of the war with Iraq.

Several reports spoke about differences between Iranian clergymen particularly when competition to succeed Ayatollah Khomeyni has increased. Other reports spoke of differences between the clergymen and the Army senior officers who were sure of fighting a losing war with the well-armed Iraqi forces.

Iran strongly rejected international efforts by the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Conference and others and rejected Security Council Resolution 598. It insisted that the Security Council should determine the party that started the war where both Iraq and Iran accuse each other of being the aggressor.

Iraq announced its acceptance of Resolution 598, stressing wishes of peace with neighboring Iran, while in contrast rejection by Tehran has increased Iran's international and regional isolation.

Indications of differences inside Iran had surfaced last May when the Iranian chief of staff was relieved by Khomeyni following the great defeat of the Iranian troops occupying the Iraqi Al-Faw peninsula. In the days following the liberation of Al-Faw sharp differences erupted among Iranian leaders who exchanged blames and accusations over the defeat.

Conflicting statements were issued by the Iranian leadership after the defeat in Al-Faw, topped by parliament speaker, Hashemi-Rafsanjani who said "time is not working in our favor now." He did not give further details.

Obviously, Khomeyni favoured the Iranian Revolutionary Guards to the regular Army within his future farseeing to dispose with the Army a few years later. The Revolutionary Guards, "pasdaran", who play the major role in fighting Iraq, are not under supervision of the Army's chief of staff.

Tehran earlier this year organized "the Army Week" in a measure described by observers as an attempt to boost the morale of the Army, which played a secondary role during attacks on Iraq.

In late June a higher council to support the war was formed under chairmanship of President 'Ali Khamene'i and included parliament speaker, prime minister, commander of the Revolutionary Guards, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces and head of the Information Committee as memebers.

It was observed that the council gave President Khamene'i greater authority at the expense of his competitor Rafsanjani, who is also acting high commander of the Armed Forces. Rafsanjani as holder of such post has authorities over the Higher Defence Council which supervises recruitment, the Army and the pasdaran.

In an interview with Radio Tehran on July 14, Rafsanjani said Iran has decided to undertake serious changes in its military plans and organize its Armed Forces. He added the latest developments in the war did not accord with the previously set plans.

On July 2, Iran announced establishment of a General Command of the Iranian Armed Forces in the aftermath of the series of Iranian defeats since mid April when Iraq started the offensive to liberate its occupied territories.

Observers noted, in a first reaction on the decision, however, that it came counter to what Iran has announced that it is preparing for a protracted war with Iraq. [Words indistinct] if Rafsanjani was among those who accepted the decision or the decision was taken against his will, tantamount to a coup, particularly it was included in a communique by the General Command of the Armed Forces and not by the political leadership.

In all cases, the decision is a cause for rejoice since it puts an end for the bloodbath where thousands of people of the two countries were killed as well as it blocked development for eight consecutive years.

The conflict threatened regional and world security and stability and impaired freedom of international navigation where the last incident was the downing of the Iranian plane in which 290 passengers were killed.

Undoubtedly, whoever is behind the decision to accept the international will, Iran has responded to the call of reason to live peacefully with its neighbour countries and to direct its endeavours to the internal front which has been sustaining danger for eight years.

Papers View Cease-Fire

LD1907091488 Kuwait KUNA in English 0808 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 19 (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti press Tuesday applauded Iran's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, and voiced hope that a new dawn of peace would break out in the Gulf region.

The daily AL-QABAS commented editorially that after declaring its acceptance of Resolution 598, Tehran would have to demonstrate its desire for peace with its neighbors, by pulling back from the remaining Iraqi lands still under its occupation.

The newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM termed the Iranian announcement as brave and said it would break Iran's international isolation and help bring peace with Iraq through negotiations.

"Iran now stands in the trench which we so often had invited it to. This is the trench of cooperation, friendship and co-existence with neighboring Gulf states on historic and realistic basis," the daily said.

AL-ANBA' newspaper asserted though acceptance came only two days before the first anniversary of Resolution 598, it had been forced by Iraq's dominance of the battlefronts over the past four months.

Writing under "a rejoice that must be completed," the daily AL-WATAN said the Iranian decision was a wise one by all criteria. It pointed out that "the damned war between the two Muslim countries had destroyed towns and villages in the two states and caused hundreds thousands of deaths."

The paper advised Iran to consider comprehensive peace with Iraq, a move which it asserted, would drive foreign fleets out of the Gulf region.

English language daily, KUWAIT TIMES, said Iran's acceptance of the ceasefire should fortify hopes that there would be "no nit-picking" on essentials from the side of Tehran.

There is more reason to be confident than uncertain, said the paper, adding that "from Iran's point of view it is of the essence that they should have the mess cleared as soon as possible and before the death of Iran's ailing spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni."

Qatar

Minister Welcomes Iran's Acceptance of 598

JN1907054088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2040 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Doha, 18 Jul (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has welcomed Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. Qatari Information Minister 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari said this acceptance is the first important step toward the full implementation of this resolution with all its clauses.

He said this will pave the way for the long-awaited end to the Iraq-Iran war, for the achievement of a just peace and stability in the region, and for the establishment of good neighborliness and cooperation among its peoples.

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Welcomes Iranian Statement on War

LD1807193988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Jul (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expresses its satisfaction at the announcement today by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that Iran has officially accepted UN Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for stopping the Iran-Iraq war, on the basis of the publicized message received by the secretary general from the president of the Iranian Republic. This was stated to SPA by a responsible source.

The source added...[ellipsis as received] While it welcomes the acceptance of establishing peace and ending the tense situation in the region, which is what the Islamic and Arab nation has been looking forward to and demanding since the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war, the Kingdom reaffirms its eagerness for security and stability to prevail between the two neighboring Muslim states under the auspices of peaceful negotiations that would achieve a lasting peace between them based on good-neighborliness.

Interior Minister Discusses Hajj Preparations

LD1907105188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0520 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Jeddah, 19 July, SPA—Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has said the Kingdom, as the custodian and guardian of the holy mosques, has a responsibility to take any steps it considers necessary to ensure that pilgrims fulfill their obligations in comfort and with ease, in accordance with the stipulations of Islamic law.

His royal highness emphasized, in a long, comprehensive interview with SPA, that in keeping with this understanding it is not possible to permit anyone or any side to do or say anything at variance with Islam and its instructions in these holy mosques.

His royal highness the interior minister pointed out that this is nothing new. He said that, nevertheless, it is necessary to emphasize this, given the mass marches by Iranian pilgrims in previous years during which political banners were raised and photographs of Iranian revolution leaders carried.

His royal highness stressed that these activities are not part of the pilgrimage rituals and are non-Islamic. He added:

"The Kingdom made a decisive and irrevocable decision not to allow a repeat of anything of that nature by anyone or any group."

Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz reassured his brother pilgrims that every step and contingency necessary for them to carry out their rituals in comfort, security, and reassurance has been taken by the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques.

In answer to a question by SPA, the interior minister said:

"The defense of Islam and its holy places does not concern just the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia without the other Islamic states. But the Kingdom does play a prominent role in the Islamic arena, it being the cradle of Islam and the one responsible for the protection and maintenance of the holy Islamic places."

He went on to say: "We have no doubt about Muslims' eagerness and enthusiasm to protect Islam and its holy places, not by words and evidence but with deeds and souls, if it became necessary."

His royal highness went on to say that among the fruits of the Saudi Kingdom's policy—since God honored it with carrying the message of Islam, publicizing its teachings, and serving its holy mosques—has been the holding of numerous Islamic conferences, seminars, and meetings all over the world.

These have emanated out of the Islamic nation's concern over the two holy mosques and with avoiding motives for the pilgrimage other than those stipulated by the holy Islamic law.

United Arab Emirates

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Iran's Decision

JN1907062888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2052 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Jul (INA)—The UAE has welcomed Iran's decision to accept UN Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for ending the war between Iraq and Iran and resolving the existing dispute between them through peaceful means.

In a statement tonight, Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, under secretary of the UAE Foreign Ministry, said that while the UAE expresses extreme satisfaction with the Iranian decision, it considers it an important turning point toward establishing the bases of security and stability in the region to maintain the interests of the area states and avert the danger of foreign interventions.

Shaykh Hamdan added the UAE believes that this decision is wise and brave. The decision also saves the blood of Muslim brothers as well as the two countries' potential and resources for the service of the issues of the Arab and Islamic nation against the common Zionist enemy.

Yemen Arab Republic

Cabinet Submits Resignation to President

JN1807131988 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at noon today Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Comittee; the deputy prime ministers and a number of ministers.

The prime minister submitted to the brother leader the resignation of the Cabinet members and prime minister.

The brother leader accepted the resignation of Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani's government and thanked it for its sincere efforts in the past years. He asked the government to continue its work in accordance with Article 103 of the permanent Constitution until a new government is formed.

Iran's Hashemi-Rafsanjani Cited on Resolution

JN1907053488 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] [Hashemi-]Rafsanjani held a news conference in Tehran, the details of which were aired by Tehran radio after midnight last night. At this news conference, Rafsanjani indicated that the war circumstances led the Iranian regime to the recent developments and to the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 after rejecting it for a whole year. Rafsanjani admitted that tampering with the sequence of the articles of the resolution is no longer possible. However, he continues to say that Iran's conditions about what is called Iran's rights have not changed.

At his news conference, Rafsanjani admitted that Iranian forces are still present in some Iraqi territories. He said that their acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 does not mean that the war has ended. However, he directly or indirectly admits the defeat before Iraq's firm capability and the Iraqis' firmness although he, from time to time, tries to cover this up, considering that the shooting down of the Iranian civilian plane by the United States is the major cause for reconsidering their previous stand on the resolution.

More on Visit by Soviet Official Vorontsov

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN1807182188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received here today Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs. He conveyed to him greetings from Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary. Discussions during the meeting ranged over the good, developing relations between Iraq and the USSR, regional developments, and developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN1907083488 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, and his delegation left Baghdad this morning following a 3-day visit to Iraq. In a statement to INA, Vorontsov said his visit to Iraq has given him an opportunity to exchange viewpoints with the Iraqi friends in a detailed and profound manner on a great number of issues that came under discussion.

He expressed satisfaction with the political consultations he held with officials. He also expressed appreciation for the political leadership in Iraq, headed by President Leader Saddam Husayn, for the opportunities it offered him to hold serious and good consultations. He wished Iraq—leadership and people—further successes.

Red Cross Asked To Protect Prisoners of War

AU1507165688 Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Geneva, July 15 (AFP)—The Iraqi Government on Friday accused Iran of "barbarous crimes" against prisoners of war and asked the International Red Cross for "protection".

In a letter addressed to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and published here Friday, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz claimed Iran carried out "murders, tortures, and persecutions" against Iraqi prisoners.

The letter claimed that, after recapturing the region of Mawt, formerly occupied by Iran, Iraqi troops had found bodies of prisoners of war with marks "showing clearly that they had been killed, bound, mutilated and burnt."

Iraq asked the ICRC to "take measures to prevent the repetition of such crimes and to force Iran to observe the third convention of 1949" concerning prisoners of war.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,264

JN1907124288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,264 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The valiant forces of the people celebrated the anniversary of the 17-30 July glorious revolution, the revolution of great achievements and liberty, which was started and led by Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, may God prolong his life.

It is fortunate that this anniversary coincides with the great victories scored by our valiant Armed Forces in all operation sectors to liberate the land and destroy the remnants and war machine of the aggressors in defense of the history, present, future, territory, and security of Iraq, and also in defense of the honor of the Arab nation and the values of civilization and peace.

On this blessed day, our Armed Forces gratefully recall the role of their brave commander Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, in building their military creed and in organizing, arming, equipping, and providing them with courageous men who have become a source of pride for Iraq and the nation.

Every commander, officer, and soldier vows to our beloved leader and our great people that we will remain faithful to the principles, guards of the land, and an unconquerable strike force against every sinful aggressor. God grant us success and help. Following are the activities of our units for last night and today:

1. At 1200 today, numbers of our fighter planes took off aiming at fuel storage tanks north of Ahvaz. After penetrating the enemy air defenses, they dealt destructive strikes to their targets. Our planes flew 72 combat missions today to carry out the aforementioned task and to hit enemy units at operation theatres. After carrying out their duties, all our planes returned safely to base, under the protection of God.

2. Our daring helicopter gunships flew 59 combat sorties today through which they inflicted new human, arms, and equipment losses on the enemies of our country. Thank God, they returned safely to base.

3. Four scoundrels were killed and an ammunition dump was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, a patrol from one of our units carried out a combat operation against a group of enemy personnel. Three scoundrels were killed. Also a 106mm gun, an SPG-9 gun, a machine gun, a 60mm mortar, and three various rifles were captured. All members of the patrol returned safely to base.

4. Our units at the VII Army Corps sector dealt effective blows to enemy units in front of them, using artillery and other weapons. They succeeded in destroying 18 infantry positions, 2 machine guns, and a vehicle. They inflicted a number of dead and wounded on the enemy

5. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely transferred to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 July 1988.

Communique No 3,265

JN1807164588 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,265 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. The courageous knights of the helicopter gunships today mounted 161 sorties. They inflicted new losses on the aggressors and then returned safely with their planes to base, thanks be to God.

2. In the II Army Corps central sector eight enemy personnel were killed or wounded; an observation post was destroyed and a vehicle was burned and destroyed. In the V Army Corps northern sector five scoundrels were killed, and an infantry position and two machineguns were destroyed.

3. In the VII Army corps sector our units engaged enemy units achieving the following:

Killing an enemy personnel; destroying 10 infantry positions and 4 various machineguns; destroying and burning a vehicle; and blowing up an ammunition dump.

4. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our front units and were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 July 1988

Plane Downed Near Al-'Amiq

JN1907081488 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 19 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

A patrol of our planes clashed with a number of Iranian planes near the Al-'Amiq port. After a dogfight in which superiority was clearly in favor of our planes, one of the Iranian planes was downed near the Al-'Amiq port into the Arabian Gulf waters. Our planes then returned safely to base, God be praised.

[Dated] 19 July 1988

F-4 Downed Near Kirkuk

JN1907121688 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1205 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 19 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. An enemy F-4 plane violated our international borders today, targeting residential quarters in the city of Kirkuk.

The men of our air defenses confronted the plane and managed to down it inside our territory. Blessed be the men of our air defenses. Praise be to God for His victory.

Reaction to Iran's Acceptance of UN Resolution

Peres on Decision

TA1807174088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Here is Israel's first reaction to the Iranian report. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that if the Iranian announcement that it is prepared for a cease-fire in its war with Iraq is correct, it would represent a change in the Middle East scene.

[Begin Peres recording] Of course, we should not be hasty in making conclusions before confirming the report and what is behind it, but it immediately raises the question of the status of Iran and Iraq in the region. Iraq has built up a very large army with over 50 divisions, with a strong Air Force and missile setup, but it has also suffered a large number of human losses.

The question is whether it will now direct itself toward rehabilitating the country or whether it will be enticed into seeking hegemony in the Arab world. We will not be able to know that immediately. I do not even think that the Iraqis know that yet.

Referring to Iran, this is certainly a far-reaching decision. It is a change in its policy if, as I said before, the report is correct. We have already seen that the Iranians have begun to send feelers to the West, and the West to Iran. A few days ago there was an article by Kissinger calling on the United States to prepare for a different Iran in the future.

Basically, what can be said at this moment is that if it is correct it is the conclusion of one chapter and the start of another. I believe that neither of the two countries at this stage has yet decided which way it will turn with its power and war weariness. [end recording]

'Real Meaning' Still Unknown

TA1907043788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says it is still too premature to assess the news that Iran has agreed to a cease-fire in the Gulf war. The prime minister was speaking to reporter David Essing last night after addressing the Rabbinical Council of America in Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] While it's very important news, I think we have to wait a few days and see the real meaning of it and then we will be able to say something more defined.

[Essing] Both are sworn enemies of Israel. If the Gulf war does come to an end, will this obligate an Israeli reassessment of its strategic position?

[Shamir] Well, let us wait and see and not to be in a hurry and to speculate immediately.

[Essing] Mr Prime Minister, in Atlanta, Georgia, the Democratic convention gets under way today. Does it make any difference to Israel whether it's the Democrats or the Republicans who are in the White House in the next administration? Whether Dukakis or Bush wins?

[Shamir] Well, we are not involved in any political confrontations in the United States. It's up to the citizens of the United States to decide about who will be their president. But we hope that whoever will be will be a friend of our country. [end recording]

IDF Watchful

TA1907051188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Israel was surprised by the Iranian announcement on the Gulf war. An 8-year break in which the Arab countries had no time for the Israeli front has passed. The Iraqi Army, security elements say, is considered a good Army with high capability and power. This Army numbers about 1 million soldiers organized in 50 divisions, and has a larger scope than the U.S. Army. The Iraqi Air Force, which includes more than 600 fighter planes, has acquired a great deal of operational experience in long-range bombing operations; Iraqi fighters carried out sorties to bomb Iranian targets at very long ranges.

Furthermore, one must not ignore the surface-to-surface missiles and the use made of chemical weapons during the war. There is a real danger that if the Gulf war ends, the Iraqi force will be directed against Israel. The IDF will be unable to ignore the possibility that Iraqi Army forces may participate in the anti-Israel war effort in the future, if the war in the Gulf does indeed come to an end. Security elements add that in a few years, we will face an eastern front with a larger, as well as more experienced, trained, and professional Iraqi Army than that which entered the war with Iran.

Nevertheless, security elements emphasize that an end to the Gulf war will also be a positive move, which may perhaps lead to an end to the armament race in the Middle East. If this is only a cease-fire and not real peace between the two countries, the two will continue to maintain forces along their borders. Another positive implication: stability and sobering up from illusions about the achievement of forceful solutions in the Middle East.

It also seems that the Iraqi Army will now take the time to implement a large-scale rehabilitation program and may even reduce its ranks, although it will still remain larger than it was 8 years ago. According to these elements, it is not certain that we will soon be faced with the formation of an eastern front against us, but we must be better prepared for such a possibility than ever before. One should remember that there has been no war in the region in which the Iraqis have not taken part.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 19 July reports that "the defense establishment in Israel is keeping a watch on the significance of the Iranian statement and the possible cease-fire. This was announced last night by the IDF spokesman, who added that any other statement referring to defense or military sources was baseless. Voice of Israel's military correspondent describes the spokesman's statement as unusual, and says it stems apparently from the wish not to react directly to developments in the Gulf at this stage."]

Fishermen Clash With Egyptians in Gulf of Elat

TA1707112188 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Jul 88 p 9

[Report by Betzalel Rubin]

[Excerpts] There has been another incident between members of the Egyptian Navy and Israeli fishermen in the Gulf of Elat at the end of last week.

Three Israeli fishermen, all residents of Elat, 'Uri 'Azivi, 27; Prosper Elymelekh, 47; Shim'on Nahari, 48; and an Australian tourist named Gail Anderson, 26, left Elat last Wednesday to fish. At about 0400 they were detained by an Egyptian Navy boat. [passage omitted]

Two of the Israelis and the Australian tourist were released after 48 hours detention and returned to Elat by bus. When they reached Tabah, Ahmad al-Masiri, the Egyptian consul in Elat, was summoned to hear the protest of the three. The reaction of the Egyptian consul was unavailable.

After being debriefed by the police and the security forces, the three asked the Foreign Ministry to use its influence to secure the immediate release of Shim'on Nahari, the owner of the boat, who is still under arrest in the Al-Tur prison. They also demanded the release of the boat.

Elat police believe Nahari was arrested because his licenses had expired.

There was another incident yesterday morning near Coral Island. A motorboat called "Riba," sailing in the bay of Elat with eight people aboard, was swept up close to Coral island. The passengers were detained for questioning by the Egyptians, who released them after determining that all their licenses were valid.

Egyptian Gunboat Confronted in Elat Waters

TA1807072888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] An Egyptian Navy gunboat entered Israeli territorial waters in Elat twice yesterday, coming within several hundred meters of the beaches. It was chased away by Israel Navy boats. Our correspondent Me'ir Suissa reports from Elat:

Late yesterday afternoon, an Egyptian Navy gunship entered Israeli territorial waters in Elat. It sailed some 400 meters north of Tabah, and retreated after spotting a vessel belonging to the Israeli Coast Guard. Some time later, the Egyptian ship sailed again along the Elat beaches.

In the wake of this incident, Elat Mayor Rafi Hochman is demanding that the prime minister and the Foreign Ministry take immediate steps against the Egyptian threat to Israeli seafarers sailing the Gulf of Elat.

Yesterday, following repeated incidents in which members of the Egyptian Navy have harassed Israeli seafarers and fishermen who strayed into Egyptian territorial waters, the mayor sent express cables, warning also that there have recently been three instances in which Israeli navigators were detained under threats accompanied by drawn guns, and were later tried as if they were criminals.

'Progress' in Talks With Egyptian Liaison Team

TA1707044288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Israeli and Egyptian delegations to the liaison unit met last week to discuss routine matters. The Egyptian delegation was headed by General (Hayri Shama), while the Israeli delegation was headed by Brigadier General Oren Shahor.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the Israeli delegation emphasized the need to prevent terrorist infiltrations to Egypt [as heard] and to locate Israeli MIA's. The talks were described as good and progress was made on several issues.

'Bickering' With Egypt Over Tabah Talks Venue

TA1707091588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jul 88 p 8

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Israel and Egypt have agreed in principle to hold compromise talks on the Tabah dispute, but are now bickering over the venue of the talks, sources in Jerusalem said.

The two countries have an additional month to try and achieve a compromise following the announcement of the five international arbitrators that they will announce their award at the end of September and not on September 1, as previously planned.

The arbitration award is expected to go in Egypt's favour. Israel is interested in compromise talks in order to salvage what it can in the form of access rights to Tabah, while Egypt is concerned that the arbitration award might be phrased in general terms that would allow Israel to drag out its implementation.

Israel has rejected an Egyptian proposal that the talks be held in Geneva because the Swiss city serves as the "home ground" of the chief Egyptian Tabah negotiator, Nabil al-Arabi, who is also his country's representative to the UN institutions in that city. Instead, Israel has proposed that the talks be held "in the area."

Although Egypt has yet to formally respond to Israel's proposal, it is thought to be unacceptable to Cairo. Thus, the American Embassy here on Friday proposed to the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, that the talks open in Washington in ten days.

Netherland's Lubbers, Van den Broek Arrive

Welcomed by Shamir

TA1707145788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Ruud Lubbers, the prime minister of the Netherlands, said at the outset of his official visit to Israel that due to the political developments over the past 12 months his people find it difficult to provide Israel with as strong support as Israel would like. Nevertheless, he emphasized, the Dutch will continue to harbor feelings of deep friendship and identification with Israel. That is precisely why he can speak frankly, said Lubbers. He was speaking at the state welcome ceremony held for him at the Rose Garden opposite the Knesset in Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir welcomed the visitor on behalf of the entire people of Israel. He said that in their talks an attempt will be made to reach mutual understanding and deepen the historic friendship with the Netherlands.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez said that the two prime ministers then departed for their first meeting. The Netherlands prime minister is later scheduled to meet with Soviet immigrants.

Meet With Peres

TA1807132588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the Iranian announcement calls for a study of what could happen in the region in the future, especially since Iraq has developed a large army containing more than 50 divisions.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Mr Peres met this afternoon with the Netherlands prime minister and foreign minister and agreed on the setting up of a joint Israeli-Netherlands committee to study questions related to the emigration of Soviet Jews.

Minister Meets With Palestinians

TA1807163588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] The meeting between the Netherlands foreign minister and a group of Palestinian figures from the territories ended in East Jerusalem a short while ago. The guest was presented with a document outlining eight points for the solution of the conflict in the territories. Hanna Sinyurah detailed the main points in the document:

[Begin Sinyurah recording—in English] It contains eight points; mainly, that Israel has to withdraw from the territories, that there has to be negotiations under an international conference where the PLO represents the Palestinian people, and at the same time... [fading into superimposed Hebrew translation]

Meanwhile, the Palestinian people's human rights must be observed, said Hanna Sinyurah.

Our correspondent Shlomi Stein adds that the Netherlands foreign minister repeated Prime Minister Lubbers' remarks of last night, saying that the status quo in the territories cannot go on for long.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 18 July adds: "Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek toured the Qalandiyah refugee camp this afternoon, where he heard the residents complain about the attitude toward them and deportations. He replied that his country recognizes Israel's right to exist, but at the same time also recognizes the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that at the end of the tour, residents of the camp tried to fly PLO flags and threw stones. The security forces dispersed them with rubber bullets."]

Criticizes 'Practices'

TA1807180588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek has sharply criticized Israel's practices in the territories. At a news conference in Jerusalem, he said some of the practices of the Israeli authorities are not commensurate with their purpose of achieving normalization. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Van den Broek why Holland had forbidden the sale of submarines to Israel, when it had authorized their sale to Saudi Arabia:

[Begin recording] [Van den Broek] Already since 10 or 15 years we don't supply arms to countries that are directly involved in the Middle East conflict. When we took the decision to, in principle, allow export to a country like Saudi Arabia, we also recognized what the role was of Saudi Arabia in its region and the policies that have been conducted by Saudi Arabia in the past decades and the moderating role they can fulfill, certainly in an area of tension, like for instance the Gulf. So, in fact it is completely commensurate, again, with a policy that has been conducted by the Netherlands for many, many years now.

[Katzenell] But does this mean, Foreign Minister, that there's no prospect of the Dutch Government approving such a sale by the Dutch Shipyard to Israel in the foreseeable future?

[Van den Broek] I think that is a justified conclusion. [end recording]

The Dutch foreign minister met this afternoon with 15 leading Palestinians in East Jerusalem. Unlike previous meetings, the Palestinian delegation did not contain one Palestinian known as pro-Jordanian. Steve Rodan has more:

[Begin recording] [Rodan] The main topic of the meeting was the Palestinian uprising, which has resulted in a decrease of Western European support for Israel. But Holland is still regarded as a strong friend of Israel so it was doubly satisfying for the Palestinians at the meeting to hear the support the Dutch foreign minister expressed for their aspirations.

[Van den Broek] There are a number of fundamental problems to be solved, in which I do believe the Netherlands can try to play a moderate role, a modest role I should say. Because of our relations with Israel, we think it is our obligation not only to continue good relations with that country, but also to use our meetings—which, in fact, we have done in the past days—to show that the status quo of this moment cannot continue and that courageous steps are needed.

[Rodan] Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, the head of the Arab Journalists Association, helped arrange the session. He described what he called the importance of the meeting:

[Abu 'Ayyash] We believe that Holland is a very good friend of Israel and this friendship shouldn't be at the expense of the Palestinians and should Holland initiate a very good close relationship with the Palestinians as well as Israel.

[Rodan] Palestinian sources regarded today's meeting with the Dutch foreign minister as far more important than the previous session with the Japanese foreign minister 2 weeks ago. So, unlike the previous meeting, the session today did not contain one Palestinian either regarded as pro-Jordanian or with strong links to Amman. [end recording]

Shultz Initiative Action Urged

TA1707202088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Netherlands Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers has called on Israel to participate in a Middle East conference. Speaking at a state dinner held in his honor by the prime minister at the Knesset building, the guest said that the Shultz initiative is useful, but if advantage is not taken of it, all the parties involved will lose.

Regarding the situation in the territories, the Netherlands prime minister said that the prevailing status quo cannot continue forever. Israel must cease to fear Palestinian presence along its borders.

In his address, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that Israel expects its friends, especially the Netherlands, to support it and repel the unbridled attacks to which it has recently been subjected.

This report on the statements by the Netherlands prime minister and Prime Minister Shamir was filed by our correspondent Jack Katzenell.

Earlier, the Netherlands prime minister and Foreign Minister Van den Broek conferred with members of the Public Council for Soviet Jews. Speaking on behalf of the hosts, Prof Victor Brailovsky thanked the Netherlands Government for its efforts to ease the plight of Soviet Jews. The Netherlands prime minister promised to support the struggle for the exit of Jews from the Soviet Union and to find a solution to the problems of families that meet with special difficulties.

Jordan Taking Steps To Curb Spread of 'Uprising'

TA1507111688 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Jul 88 p 4

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Excerpts] Since the beginning of the uprising in the territories, the Jordanian authorities have been taking various steps to prevent the intifada [uprising] from spreading into the Palestinian population centers in Jordan. On the one hand, they are Palestinian activists and other militant elements in a bid to prevent them from stirring up ferment in refugee camps and universities where many Palestinians study. On the other hand, they channel shows of solidarity with the intifada into philanthropic activities such as fund-raising and providing Palestinians from the territories residing in Jordan with public services at low rates, such as reduced university fees.

So far the Jordanians have been successful in using these methods to stop the ferment from spreading to the eastern bank of the Jordan River. Palestinian sources associated with left-wing PLO circles have recently disclosed some of the methods employed by the Jordanians to prevent the Palestinians in Jordan from emulating the violent behavior patterns of their West Bank kin.

These sources said that Jordanian security forces have arrested a large number of Palestinians in various centers. [passage omitted]

Another method employed by the Jordanian authorities involves issuing a priori warnings to inciters against participating in antigovernment activity. They also make young Palestinians suspected of being "demonstration leaders" sign official notices staring that if they are again caught taking part in any demonstration or stone-throwing incident, their parents will be fined 500 dinars.

Jordan Denies Entry to Palestinian Activist

TA1807061888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A prominent Palestinian activist, Ahmad Hamdi al-Natshah, was refused entry into Jordan. Al-Natshah, a member of the Palestine National Council—the so-called parliament of the PLO—received a permit by Israel to leave through the Allenby Bridge.

At the Jordanian side, he was turned back by Jordanian security officers. Al-Natshah is a top-grade Jordanian civil servant and served as director of Bayt Jala Hospital until 1976, when he was kicked out of his job by Israeli authorities.

Air Force Commander Claims 'Solution' to Tornado

TA1707132488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, the Israeli Air Force commander, says the Air Force has a solution for the special features of the Tornado aircraft that the Saudis are purchasing from Britain. The performance of the Tornado is good. It can fly at low altitudes and at high speeds, particularly at night, but as noted, we have the answer to this capability. Nevertheless, if Saudi Arabia were to join in a war against us we would have to invest more efforts in order to be able to meet the challenge it would pose. Maj Gen Bin-Nun was speaking to our correspondent Karmela Menashe on the eve of Israel's Air Force Day which is being marked this week. Bin-Nun stressed there is no need to panic in view of this build-up, although the Saudis will have considerably improved their operational ability once they have received the new weapons. It is a fact that they will be doubling their current strength. However, we have been witnessing an all-out arms race in the Middle East that predates the latest deal. The additional weapons are significant both in terms of quality and quantity, but we can live with them.

He stressed that the Air Force has managed to maintain its aerial superiority for most of the years since the establishment of the State of Israel, and he believes this superiority will persist even in the face of the new threats.

As for a possible war with Syria, the commander of the Air Force said there is no daily fear of such a war erupting, although there is no doubt that Syria is preparing for war. As soon as it feels it has a coalition on its side and it has attained strategic parity, Syria will start a war. Therefore, as long as the IDF maintains its deterrent capability, war will be kept away, Maj Gen Bin-Nun noted.

Cited on Soviet Arms Sales

TA1707195288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Interview with Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, commander of the Air Force, by Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky in Bin-Nun's office on 17 July—videotaped]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Shlonsky] Is there any chance that Saudi Arabia might transfer its Tornado aircraft to Jordan, or that other countries might do something similar with other weapon systems? That would spare them active participation in war, but allow them to help by providing various systems and arms.

[Bin-Nun] The transfer of weapons, operational crews, or entire squadrons to Jordan or Syria is a phenomenon which we have witnessed before in past wars. Our assumption is that without an explicit caveat attached to the weapons sold by a superpower, these items could easily be delivered to a third party, namely Jordan or Syria, in the course of a war.

[Shlonsky] In other words, you definitely anticipate that Saudi Arabia might transfer the British-made Tornado aircraft, the deployment of which is unrestricted, to Jordan for use in a war?

[Bin-Nun] Certainly. We definitely take such a possibility into account. Furthermore, the infrastructure in Jordan for the deployment of Tornado aircraft—whether it already exists or is developed there in the future—would allow for a smooth transition in the absorption of such aircraft in times of war. This, naturally, entails a threat to us if the time should come.

[Shlonsky] Recently there have been reports of a new arms deal between the Soviet Union under Gorbachev and Syria. That deal reportedly involves a new type of aircraft, the Sukhoi-24. How do you explain the fact that on the one hand the Soviets are selling the Syrians very sophisticated weapons systems, while on the other hand they are withholding the sale of the SS-23 surface-to-surface missile systems that had already been promised to Syria?

[Bin-Nun] I believe the hold-up of the transfer of SS-23's was caused not by a drastic change of policy, but perhaps due to the U.S.-USSR agreement. The SS-23's are outside the framework of the accord which, furthermore, calls for their destruction. [sentence as heard] It is my belief that this is why the systems have not yet been given to the Syrians, and why they may not be given to them in the future either.

Yet, in terms of the provision of know-how, electronic warfare equipment, communications systems, or the supply of platforms, aircraft, and the most modern surface-to-air missiles, this has unfortunately been going on for a while and is still continuing.

IAI To Finance Lavi B-3 From Independent Funds

TA1707104688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by aviation correspondent Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Excerpts] Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] will continue the development and production of the B-3 avionic Lavi prototype with independent financing. [passage omitted]

The defense establishment transferred the budget for the development of the B-3 to other projects for the Air Force.

Because the project is not earmarked for operational use by the Air Force, the original timetable can be changed and there is no time limit on the project. Therefore, work can continue according to the available financial resources. Nevertheless, the project cannot continue far beyond the original plan because it is to be used to promote and market other IAI products. The director general believes the project can be completed within 2 to 2 and ½ years. [passage omitted]

Arab Aid Fund Suspected of PLO Affiliation

TA1607193488 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] A Geneva-based Arab fund is funneling large amounts of money—some $2 million a year—into Arab local councils, bodies, and organizations in Israel. Official elements have recently appealed to the state attorney to find a legal way to stop the funds from arriving, since there is a reasonable suspicion they originate in the PLO. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias has more details:

Various organizations in the world, both Arab and others, are transferring funds to the Israeli Arabs. The most significant body doing this, however, is the Geneva-based Cooperation Fund. It is a charity organization, founded some 5 years ago among others by a U.S. citizen of Palestinian origin. The body's official goal is to promote the unification of the Palestinian people and to preserve their traditions.

The fund is headed by a known Arab banker, 'Abd al-Majid Shuman, who is close to the PLO. The fund's basic capital is $20 million.

In recent years, it funneled money to Israeli Arab local councils, organizations, and institutions. The following is merely a sample list: The local council of Al-Rama in Galilee, for instance, received $150,000; the Druze village of Yirka's Initiative Committee, $30,000; the Sons of the Village movement received at least $175,000 for all its branches; the Fund for the Development of Technological Education for Israeli Arabs received $300,000; the Institute for the Preservation of Palestinian Traditions based in the village of Al-Taiyiba received over $1 million in recent years. By the way, Salah Baransi, the institute's director and one of the heads of the late [outlawed] Al-Ard Movement, was detained last week under an administrative order.

The Cooperation Fund transfers money to enterprises that request its help. Fund representatives often visit Israel to approve plans and ascertain the final destination of the funds.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat announced more than once in the past that his organization was allocating large amounts for Israel's Arabs. Knowledgeable sources say that there is no proof the PLO has indeed transferred funds to Israeli Arabs, stating at the same time that bodies which do transfer funds are in fact related to the PLO.

The defense establishment is worried by the phenomenon, which has reached considerable dimensions, and has therefore appealed to the state attorney to take legal steps to stop this outpouring of funds to Israeli Arabs, as long as their source is suspect.

Head of Arab Heritage Institute Arrested

TA1507101788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jul 88 p A3

[Report from Galilee by 'Atallah Mansur]

[Text] A 6-month administrative detention order was issued yesterday against Salah Baransi, the head of the Arab Heritage Institute operating in Al-Taiyiba.

Members of the Baransi family said that police arrested him after reading out the detention order issued by the commander of the Central Command and conducting a short search of his apartment.

Baransi was one of the founders of the Nasirite Al-Ard Movement in the 1950's and served a 10-year prison term for security offenses.

Last week Baransi organized a nationwide meeting in Nazareth with the participation of dozens of Arab academics from Israel and the territories to discuss the various aspects of Arab life in Israel, marking the 40th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel and the "Arab defeat."

Sharon Says Palestinian State 'Unacceptable'

TA1807163288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon today made it clear to the Romanian foreign affairs minister, Ioan Totu, that the idea of establishing a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is unacceptable to both components of the Israeli Government.

Our political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Sharon reviewed the growing strength of the Arab armies and their latest arms deals. He dwelt on the inherent threat posed by the missiles and chemical weapons in the hands of the Arab armies. Sharon and the Romanian foreign minister agreed that the discussions of the joint committee [not further specified] should resume. The committee will hold its first meeting in Jerusalem in the autumn.

Criticism of Human Rights in Territories Rejected

TA1807163988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Avraham Sharir said that Israel can serve as a light to the nations in the way it honors human rights inside the State of Israel and in the territories under the IDF's jurisdiction. Reviewing the Justice Ministry's activities before the Knesset plenum, Minister Sharir said that no other country in the world has ever given a resident of an occupied territory the right to appeal to the supreme court. Therefore, all criticism of Israel on this matter should be rejected. [passage omitted]

'Uprising' Leaders Submit Territories Plan to UN

TA1807063588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] The so-called "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising" has submitted to the UN Secretary General and the permanent members of the Security Council an eight-point programme for short-term arrangements in the territories.

The document, which was signed by the leadership and the PLO, was handed last Tuesday to UN Undersecretary General Marrack Goulding by Hanna Sinyurah, editor of the East Jerusalem AL-FAJR newspaper, when the two met in Jerusalem.

Some of the points have appeared previously in leaflets signed by the underground leadership, and in statements by PLO leaders.

After a preamble, the document urges action to secure the following goals:

—Withdrawl of the IDF from Palestinian cities, towns and refugee camps, and replacing it with international forces;

—Holding elections to municipal and village councils under international supervision;

—Honouring the fourth Geneva Convention, abolishing the Emergency Defence Regulations and all Israeli military legislation which conflicts with local laws in force on the eve of the occupation;

—Return of the deportees and release of administrative detainees;

—Opening universities and schools;

—Closing detention centres, treating detainees as prisoners of war, granting them fair trials and holding them in prison conditions that conform with guidelines for treatment of prisoners issued by the UN Economic and Social Council;

—Recognition of the Palestinians' national rights of return and self-determination, and establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital;

—Achievement of a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem and its core, the Palestinian problem, by convening an international conference with full powers, attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council, all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO, on an independent basis, to be recognized as the sole legitimate representative of our people, wherever it may be.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Weekend Update

TA1707081788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jul 88 p 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Protests were reported earlier Friday and yesterday in the town of Tulkarm, in the Tulkarm and Nur Shams refugee camps, and in neighbouring Shuwaykah. A 16-year-old was wounded in the eye by a rubber bullet, and other protesters were overcome by tear gas, according to local sources.

Motorists from Tulkarm reported that their car windows had been smashed and their vehicles dented by a group of Israelis who hurled rocks at Arab traffic near Rosh Ha'ayin, adjacent to the Green Line.

A curfew was clamped yesterday on the Al-Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah after clashes between troops and protesters. Palestinian sources said a boy was beaten and a woman injured by rubber bullets.

Palestinian sources said phone lines to Bayt Sahur and 'Anabta, both under curfew, had been cut off.

Stone-throwing incidents were also reported in Ramallah, Janin and the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp.

17 Jul Disturbances

TA1807100388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jul 88 p 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Ben Lynfield]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At 'Anabta, troops used tear-gas and rubber bullets to break up demonstrations by pupils after the curfew on the town was lifted, Palestinian sources said. Pupils marched to the grave of a local resident killed last week in clashes with troops, according to these sources.

Several Israeli cars were stoned in the town, where a round-the-clock curfew was lifted Saturday, but was left in force from the evening until morning to prevent further attacks on Israeli traffic.

The Palestinian sources reported clashes at Shuwaykah, near Tulkarm, and the Tulkarm refugee camp. An UNRWA school at the neighbouring Nur al-Shams refugee camp was ordered closed after Palestinian flags were raised on the building and pupils renamed it after assassinated PLO military chief Khalil al-Wazir [Abu Jihad], the sources said. Underground leaflets have urged Palestinians to give nationalist names to schools and other institutions.

Also in Tulkarm, local sources said Israeli motorists fired in the air at an entrance to the city and were pelted with stones, before troops dispersed the stone-throwers with tear-gas.

In Nabulus, troops used tear-gas to break up groups of youths who stoned them in several locations, local sources said. They said a curfew was imposed on the neighbouring village of Awsarin after settlers' cars were stoned in the area. Stone-throwing incidents were also reported in Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, Hawwarah and Tubas, near Nabulus.

[In a report on pages one and two, Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 18 July reports on a series of incidents which took place yesterday in Hebron and its environs: "A bus carrying soldiers was attacked with stones and firebombs in Hebron, and firebombs were thrown at IDF vehicles in Bani Na'im and Al-Zahiriyah." According to Arab sources, several electricity poles on which Palestinian flags had been flown were removed by soldiers in Bayt Immar on the Hebron-Jerusalem road. The report notes that "this is the first time that the Army has used this type of measure." Riots were also reported in Tarqumiyah west of Hebron where, according to local sources, "a tear canister fell inside a house, hurting a 1-year-old baby, a 2 and ½-year-old child, and a 72-year-old man." In the nearby village of Nuba, "seven children were hurt by tear gas. All the victims were taken to hospital in Hebron and were discharged during the day." Riots were also reported in the village of 'Azzun east of Qalqilyah where youths placed stone barricades."]

IDF soldiers dispersed dozens of stone-throwing youths in the Al-Shati' refugee camp yesterday afternoon during a demonstration that one Palestinian source called a "warm up" for today's planned general strike throughout the Gaza Strip.

There were no serious injuries in the clash, due in large part to considerable restraint shown by some of the soldiers. Seven camp residents were treated for tear-gas inhalation at Al-Shifa' Hospital and then released.

The clash erupted in an atmosphere of continuing tension in Al-Shati' after demonstrations last night during the funeral of Sabir Faris al-Nimnim, a 24-year old resident of the camp. Palestinian sources said that Al-Nimnim had died of wounds inflicted by soldiers during a beating four months ago. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 18 July add "The Army spokesman in Gaza denied a report by Arab sources that a 25-year-old Al-Shati' resident died from beatings he sustained from soldiers. An investigation by the Army showed that Sabir Faris al-Nimnim died in Al-Shifa' Hospital from heart and kidney failure. Military sources said he was never beaten. Al-Nimnim had a brother, however, Mash'ur. The brother was involved in clashes with the Army in the Al-Shati' refugee camp. The Army spokesman said the report asserting that Sabir was beaten to death was another example of how Palestinian activists try to peddle off the death of any local Arab as being the result of alleged Army brutality."]

'Full Commercial Strike'

TA1807103788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] A resident of the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp near Nabulus died today in Jerusalem's Al-Maqasid Hospital. He was gravely wounded during riots near the Farah refugee camp last week.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a full commercial strike is under way in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip today, and numerous disruptions of public transportation and the departure of workers for jobs in Israel have been reported. The security forces clashed with youths in some locations. Our correspondent reports that matriculation examinations, however, are proceeding without interruptions.

Bayt Sahur Man Killed

TA1807174688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] A 20-year-old Bayt Sahur man, Edmond Elias Ghanim, was killed this afternoon by a rock that fell off the wall of an IDF position. Our correspondent Arye Gus cites Army sources as saying that the rock fell off a fence that collapsed. The man was hit in the head, rushed to the hospital, but died of his wounds. The Bayt Sahur residents began to riot and the IDF imposed a curfew.

In the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp, a youth was wounded by IDF gunfire this evening. Two others were wounded by rubber bullets fired during riots. The disturbances broke out after a rumor spread in the camp that a local resident, who was wounded a week ago, died of his injuries.

In the Shu'fat refugee camp north of Jerusalem, rioting youths were dispersed by rubber bullets this afternoon. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that disturbances of the public order were registered today also in Jabal al-Mukabar, a neighborhood south of Jerusalem. There was a general strike in East Jerusalem today.

Bayt Sahur Closed

TA1907104988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The town of Bayt Sahur is a closed military zone; this after riots broke out in the Bethlehem area town when rumors spread that a Bayt Sahur teenager was killed in front of an Army outpost. The Army says the teenager was killed in an accident by a falling brick. Steve Rodan was in Bayt Sahur this morning and filed this report:

[Begin Rodan recording] [passage omitted] The Army quickly launched an investigation which asserted that the brick, used to weigh down the tarpaulin covering the Army lookout post, had been dislodged and fell four stories, where it struck the 17-year-old Ghanim, who was taken then to a local hospital where he died. Bayt Sahur residents say they do not believe the Army explanation. [passage omitted]

Today Bayt Sahur is closed and the town itself is on strike. Much of nearby Bethlehem is closed as well. Residents say this is in sympathy with Ghanim's death. [end recording]

Spain Proposes Implementing Economic Agreement

TA1607101088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Spain proposes that the joint economic protocol with Israel be implemented in a bilateral manner, despite the fact that the ratification of the protocols between Israel and the EEC are being delayed. This has been proposed to Yosi Beilin, the Foreign Ministry political director general, who is currently visiting Madrid. If the protocol with Spain is activated, Israeli exports to this country will rise from $130 to $170 million.

Our political correspondent notes that a committee of general directors is already examining the significance of the proposal, mainly the degree of damage liable to be caused to Israeli flower exports to Europe because it is thought that once the agreement with Spain is signed, the ECC will not rush to ratify its agreements with Israel.

Representation Upgrade in India Welcomed

TA1507105488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jul 88 p A1

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] The Indian Government has decided to upgrade the status of the Israeli representative from vice consul to consul.

In doing so, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi responded favorably to an Israeli Government request.

Since 1982, 'Amos Radian, who holds the rank of vice consul, has been Israel's representative in Bombay. Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday expressed their satisfaction with the decision, saying it would improve relations between the two countries.

Suspected Heroin Dealers Arrested Near Jerusalem

TA1507172988 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jul 88 p 5

[Text] Jerusalem police yesterday arrested two men suspected of trading heroin. They were captured in a forest near Jerusalem, and police found 109 grams of heroin and $9,000 in their car.

Ministers Comment on Iranian Acceptance of 598

JN1907080288 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
19 Jul 88 pp 1, 17

[text] Amman, (PETRA)—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that if reports on Iran's unconditional acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 are true, this will have several dimensions on the region, particularly on the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Arabian Gulf region.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR he added that this decision has come as a result of the Iraqi victories in the war as well as on the diplomatic fronts. He said that one should wait to know Iran's true intentions and that this decision will change facts in the region.

Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah yesterday said that Jordan initially welcomes any Iranian approach to end the Iraq-Iran war.

Answering an AFP question, the minister pointed out that Jordan believes that the acceptance of peace is an honorable solution that safeguards all sides' pride and interests.

He said: However, we in Jordan are still studying Iran's decision and hope that its acceptance of the resolution will be a sign of a sincere approach to end the war and a serious response to peace calls to which the Iranian people and the sons of the Arab nation aspire.

He added: We should study this Iranian acceptance, which is still in the form announced by Iran. If this acceptance is serious, this is good news for all peoples and sides.

Iranian Acceptance of 598 'Renews Hopes'

JN1907084488 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
19 Jul 88 pp 1, 19

[Editorial:"A First Step and a Real Glad Tiding"]

[Text] Two days before the 1st anniversary of the issuance of Security Council Resolution No 598, the UN general secretary announced that Iran has accepted the resolution and its contents. Iran has in the past taken a negative stand toward this resolution. It neither rejected nor accepted it.

This meant that Tehran persisted in rejecting international unanimity on the need to stop the war. It also persisted in rejecting the resolutions of the world organization which called for stability, peace, and security in the Arabian Gulf region.

Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 needed a year, during which the front witnessed fierce battles and during which Iraq managed to regain what the Iranian troops had occupied of its territories. That year also witnessed numerous Iranian defeats, escalation of conflicts among the ruling sides in Tehran, and international unanimity on the need to accept international legitimacy and denounce the war against justice, security, and peace.

The Iranian acceptance of Resolution 598 came to reiterate the fact that Tehran continued to ignore: That there is no way to achieve settlement between it and fraternal Iraq without immediately ceasing fire as the first and main step to achieve this settlement. Such a step will not only spare blood and human and material losses, but will also open the door to common action to eliminate its reasons and consequences.

The Iranian step, which was announced by the UN secretary general, renews Arab and international hopes, particularly the hopes of the brotherly Iraqi people and Iranian peoples, in stopping this destructive war. This Iranian step is the first move toward peace after many moves, proposals, and appeals made by Iraq from the position of capability and from the position of concern for its interests and the interests of its nation and of the Iranians themselves.

The UN general secretary's announcement carried initial glad tidings, which we hope will be solidified by practice and by other steps that will affirm that the Iranian regime has decided to move from the path of war to the path of peace and from the path of hatred and expansion to the path of brotherly relations which are strengthened by religion and neighborliness and which must be strengthened by common interests.

We pray to God that the end of this war has begun and that the forthcoming peace will create new relations that will rise above this war and its consequences and above hatreds and premeditated intentions. We also pray to God that a new era will begin in the Gulf region which will be needed to confront many enemies that are lurking for everyone in this region. They will not be pleased that guns will be silenced and sounds of construction and comprehensive rebuilding and development will emerge.

Prince Hasan Chairs Meeting on National Economy

JN1807200488 Amman Television Service in English
1900 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] His royal highness the crown prince chaired at the prime minister's office yesterday evening a lengthy meeting of the financial, economic, and planning committee. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Dhuqan al-Hindawi, and members of the committee.

A review was made of the progress of work at the third 5-year economic and social development plan of 1986-1990. An evaluation was conducted of the first half of the plan already implemented. The evaluation process was based on comparing preplanned targets in the first half of the plan with actual economic and social achievements.

The conferees voiced satisfaction with the success of the efforts to adapt and rectify the course of national economy. The adaptation and rectification process was the basis for tackling the problems of the national economy in the first half of the years of the plan.

The conferees also voiced satisfaction with Jordan's development process which continued in the first half of the plan in accordance with preplanned targets despite the difficult regional and international economic conditions. The preplanned target was to achieve a 4 percent increase in the gross national product per year in the first 2 years of the plan. The gross national product actually grew by 3.1 percent a year in these 2 years, which is an exemplary achievement, taking into consideration the economic conditions in the region.

One of the major objectives of the plan to reduce consumption and imports and to increase exports was also achieved. The deficit in the balance of trade dropped and and the current expenditures of the state were covered from local revenues. The conferees noted that joint Arab economic action was intensified in this period through joint bilateral commissions. Inter-Arab trade and economic cooperation was also active. Investment efforts focused on infrastructure projects in the various sectors.

They covered all regions of the Kingdom with a view to achieving a better distribution of development gains. Well over 500 million Jordanian dinars were spent on investments in various sectorial projects. The conferees noted that the private sector should be more active in participating in development projects.

His royal highness, the prime minister, and the officials attending discussed the rupture in the Jordanian labor market; namely, the imbalance between supply and demand in manpower resources needed for this particular phase of development.

The conferees asserted the need for changing the traditional outlook to employment and that people should benefit from the available job opportunities which are required at this development phase. This trend, the conferees asserted, is in line with the efforts being made to develop the educational process and the civil service.

Discussion at the meeting also focused on the major economic policies directly linked with the investment climate in Jordan. The conferees asserted the significance of further encouragement of local, Arab, and foreign investments, especially as Jordan enjoys political and economic stability.

On the future outlook, the conferees stressed the need to focus in the next development phase on small and medium-size projects with a view to increasing and diversifying production and increasing job opportunities.

Al-Jumayyil Reportedly Escapes Assassination

NC1907085488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0818 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Beirut, 19 Jul (MENA)—Citing information conveyed by persons close to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, the Lebanese paper AL-SAFIR today reports that the president and his family were subjected to an assassination attempt at a swimming club in East Beirut last Sunday.

AL-SAFIR says: President al-Jumayyil and his family went to Tabarja beach on Sunday. As Al-Jumayyil was about to enter his private cabin a hail of bullets was fired in his direction, forcing him to throw himself on the ground. His guards and aides surrounded him and took him and members of his family inside the cabin.

According to their information, AL-SAFIR adds, quick contacts were held and a combat force arrived and set up a cordon around the club. Al-Jumayyil and his family were then taken to Bikfayya, the president's summer residence. It later transpired that those who opened fire were members of the Lebanese Forces—Christian militia—with barracks on Tabarja beach.

The Lebanese paper AL-LIWA' reports that a Lebanese Forces soldier at the Tabarja beach club who heard shooting brandished his pistol and proceeded toward the source of the shooting.

AL-LIWA' adds that President al-Jumayyil's guard intercepted the man and asked him to throw his pistol on the ground. An argument developed, and the Lebanese Forces soldier asked for a support force from a nearby barracks. In the meantime, Al-Jumayyil's guards withdrew after he had left the club. A support force of the Lebanese Forces arrived and disarmed two guards at the club.

Reportage on Continuing Battle for Al-Qubayyat

Shi'ite Ja'far Clan Attacks

NC1707093388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Excerpt] According to a security report received from the north by Radio Free Lebanon, since 1900 yesterday clashes have been taking place in Al-Qubayyat and on the outskirts of 'Andaqat between the Al-Qubayyat residents and the Shi'ite Ja'far clan, which collaborates with and is supported by Elie Hubayqah [former chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee]. According to the report, the Ja'far clan gunmen are trying to launch attacks on the town with the help of artillery and rocket launchers, and the town's residents are defending themselves and their possessions with medium- and light-caliber machineguns. The fighting is mainly taking place in the town's Al-Utulbi quarter. The report stated that the residents have suffered approximately 10 casualties, while 2 of the attackers have been killed and some others wounded. The Syrians have cordoned off the village, but have not intervened to halt the attacks. At around 0200 today, the Syrians asked the Al-Qubayyat defenders, who are fighting from positions near their respective homes, to evacuate their positions. This would mean, of course, leaving the way open to the Ja'far clan gunmen to enter the town. This demonstrates the malicious Syrian intentions against peaceable Christians, not only in Al-Qubayyat, but in every Christian area that can be isolated. [passage omitted]

Cease-Fire Agreement Reached

NC1807124788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] In a telephone conversation with the Voice of Lebanon a short while ago, Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi pointed out that a cease-fire agreement was reached in Al-Qubayyat at noon today. He described the situation there as calm after the agreement was reached between delegations representing Al-Qubayyat town and the Ja'far clan during a meeting in the residence of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an.

Al-Rasi said he had contacted the participants, who told him that a positive atmosphere prevailed throughout the meeting. Al-Rasi has asked Brig Gen Ghazi Kan'an and the commander of the internal security forces company in the north to make efforts to pacify the situation. The Syrian troops have also been asked to pursue those who disturb the peace.

Al-Rasi was asked whether the Syrian troops will enter into Al-Qubayyat. He said: Syrian security has been present in Al-Qubayyat for a long time. Certain troops will, of course, act as a buffer force between the warring sides, he added. So far, Al-Raqi said, a cease-fire has been reached, without going into details.

Shelling Continues

NC1807184388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] According to the latest reports, gunmen of the Ja'far clan and the Jundallah Organization are concentrating their men and stationing guns behind barricades they are building with bulldozers in positions facing the Al-Qubayyat hills, notably the Al-Shambuq church hill. The reports add that Syrian forces have set up a roadblock in (Harat al-Qutubi) and another in the town of Al-Qubayyat. The men manning these roadblocks are disarming the inhabitants.

Despite the declaration of a cease-fire at noon today, Al-Qubayyat has continued to come under intermittent shelling and Grad rocket fire this afternoon. The town was subjected to Grad rockets and 160-mm field artillery fire this morning. The Ja'far clan does not possess such weapons.

The Syrian forces took over the Al-Shambuq church hill last night, but suddenly withdrew from the hill 2 hours later, when the Ja'far clan occupied it. This compelled the Al-Qubayyat inhabitants to launch an attack to recover the hill.

Security sources have stated that Jundallah gunmen were seen participating in the fighting alongside the Ja'far clan, whose gunmen said that the Jundallah gunmen are not under their command. The same sources added that the Syrian forces have established roadblocks at the entrances to the town. This prompted the inhabitants to remove their wounded to the hospitals through rough roads.

However, the town of Al-Qubayyat with its Al-Kuzbarah, Al-Shambuq, Al-Badawi, and Al-Kashshaf hills are under the control of its inhabitants, who recovered these hills before the cease-fire at noon. Among those injured today were soldiers George Jubaylah, Antoine 'Abduh, and Milad Ni'mah, and civilian Johnny 'Abduh.

Army Officer, 3 Syrians Wounded

NC1907085988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Residential areas of the Al-Qubayyat township are stil coming under violent Grad and long-range field artillery fire. Used in the bombardment are 160-mm, 130-mm, and 120-mm shells which are falling at the rate of 10 per minute. The four hills overlooking the town, Al-Shambuq, Al-Kashshaf, Al-Badawi, and Al-Kuzbarah, are also coming under attack.

Al-Qubayyat inhabitants checked two attacks by the Ja'far clan and Jundallah gunmen between 0830 and 1000 today. Casualties have been reported on both sides, particularly among the attackers.

According to information available to the Voice of Lebanon, the commander of the 'Andaqat barracks, First Lieutenant George 'Id, and three Syrian officers were wounded by the Ja'far clan as they were trying to enforce the cease-fire agreement.

New Cease-Fire Agreement

NC1907110388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Excerpt] A cease-fire agreement scheduled to take effect in the Al-Qubayyat area at 1300 was reached today. In the meantime, Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the Syrian Arab Forces Intelligence Service, has arrived in Al-Qubayyat to supervise the implementation of the agreement. [passage omitted]

Cease-Fire Violated

NC1907142088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Attacks on Al-Qubayyat and 'Andaqat have continued after gunmen from the Ja'far clan and Elie Hubayqah group violated the cease-fire which was declared this afternoon. According to reports received from the north, a new group of Hubayqah followers has gone to Al-Qubayyat to participate in the fighting alongside the Ja'far clan and Hizballah. This group consists of about 70 men, led by Joseph al-Asmar and Nicholas Ma'karun. According to information received by our radio, two Syrian intelligence officers were wounded during the fighting at dawn today.

Commenting on the Al-Qubayyat incidents, a responsible Lebanese Forces source said:

1. The Lebanese Forces cannot accept the way the Syrian forces in the area are dealing with the situation. They cannot believe that the Syrian Army is unable to stop the fighting. The Lebanese Forces hold the Syrian occupation forces fully responsible for the security of the citizens in the areas under their occupation.

2. The Lebanese Forces call on all officials to make an effort to stop the war of annihilation against the residents of the two towns.

3. The Lebanese Forces announce that they will not remain idle in the face of the attacks against Al-Qubayyat and 'Andaqat.

4. The Lebanese Forces salute the young people, children, and old people of Al-Qubayyat and 'Andaqat and emphasize that they will continue to support their right to stay on their land.

New Complaint Against Israel to Security Council

NC1607150688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Lebanon has decided to submit a new complaint to the Security Council, requesting the council to intervene at once to deter Israel from continuing its acts of aggression.

Upon the instructions of Dr Salim al-Huss, acting prime minister and foreign minister, Ambassador Salah Staytiyah, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, has cabled Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent delegate at the United Nations, asking him to submit a complaint and to seek the release of Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons. The cable includes new information on the situation in Bra'shit, Al-Qantarah, Suhmur, and Libayya. This information will be added to the report which the UN secretary general is to submit to the Security Council shortly recommending the extension of the UNIFIL mandate in the South.

Fadlallah Speaks on Israeli 'Aggression'

LD1607094188 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Beirut, July 16, IRNA—'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, a prominent Lebanese alim said that escalation of Zionist aggression in southern Lebanon is within the framework of its expansionist policy.

Addressing the Friday prayers congregation at the Imam Reza (A.S.) Mosque in southern Beirut, he said that the creation of the Zionist regime itself was to perpetuate insecurity and instability in the region.

The stationing of Ethiopian Jews in occupied southern Lebanon and forcing residents of the area to cooperate with mercenary forces of Antoine Lahd is part of the Zionist policy to expand its political influence in the region. In future stages the Zionist regime will try to annex this part of the world, he said.

Alongside this policy a propaganda campaign is waged to portray the Islamic resistance of Lebanon as terrorism with the objective of destroying it, he told the worshippers.

Fadlallah said that when Zionists are secure in their occupied territories it means Muslims are insecure on their own lands. Resistance of Muslims in southern Lebanon not only threatens the Zionist entity but the client states of the region as well, he said.

Further in his address he talked about presidential elections campaign in Lebanon and said that the Lebanese play no role in the elections and the whole thing is a political ploy for calming the masses.

Group Claims Bombing Near Syrian Position

NC1807052088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February organization has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive device near a Syrian occupation post in the vicinity of the Yemeni [not further specified] Embassy in the Qasqas area of West Beirut yesterday afternoon.

New Group Claims Attack on Syrian Position

NC1607091688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] A group calling itself the Anonymous Fedayeen Action Organization [Munazzamat al-'Amal al-Fida'iy al-Majhul] has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive charge near a Syrian occupation army position near the Concorde movie theater in Al-Hamra' in West Beirut at midnight last night.

Tension in Zgharta After Assassination Attempt

NC1807195088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Extreme tension prevails in the Al-Tall area in Zgharta amid the noticeable deployment of Al-Maradah gunmen [former President Sulayman Franjiyah's militia]. This follows an attempt to assassinate Salim Karam, a political leader in the Zgharta District. Karam was ambushed in the Al-Makhkhadah locality as he was returning from the funeral of Joseph Shahin Karam, who was killed during a clash yesterday. Three of Salim Karam's companions were wounded in the ambush.

Franjiyah Arrives in Damascus for Talks

NC1707194088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah arrived in Damascus tonight. He will be holding talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, which will focus on the presidential elections and Franjiyah's candidacy.

100 PFLP-GC Men Arrive in Burj al-Barajinah

NC1607151288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, 100 armed Palestinians belonging to the PFLP-GC, led by Ahmad Jibril, have arrived in Burj al-Barajinah camp in the last 48 hours. The reports say that the men have come from Libya, where they participated in the Aozou desert battles between the Libyan and Chadian forces. More armed members of the same organization are expected to arrive in Burj al-Barajinah camp to join the first group. The armed Palestinians were supposed to have come to Burj al-Barajinah to prevent the camp from falling to the forces of Fatah dissident Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], according to the information received.

'Stray Bullet' Wounds UNIFIL Soldier

NC1807095488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] A member of the Norwegian contingent was wounded in the shoulder yesterday when a bullet fired from a distance hit him as he was standing in front of the Mutullah Hotel. UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel has expressed the belief that it was a stray bullet.

SLA, 'Saboteur Groups' Exchange Fire in South

NC1607055688 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] The Hula crossing point came under bombardment from the Wadi Nakhlah area at dawn today. The South Lebanese Army [SLA] returned the fire with appropriate weapons. After a violent artillery barrage, the saboteur groups launched an attack against the Al-Qantarah position from three directions. The garrison, however, returned the fire, forcing the attackers to retreat. Afterwards, the position came under RPG and machinegun fire, and posts in Kafr Tibnit, Kafr Rumman, Sujud, Jabal al-Ghuzlan, and Jabal Safi were subjected to RPG and mortar fire. The SLA returned the fire. There were no casualties among SLA soldiers as a result of these attacks and the losses among the saboteur groups are not known.

Navy Intercepts Greek Ship Near Al-Jiyah

NC1507114988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1135 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Navigation sources have reported that the Israeli Navy intercepted a Greek ship off the Al-Jiyah port yesterday. The Israeli Navy detained the ship until this morning when it sailed to an unknown destination.

Spokesman Welcomes Iran's Acceptance of 598

JN1807174288 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1733 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] An official spokesman has stated the following:

The Syrian Arab Republic welcomes and expresses satisfaction with the wise decision taken by the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which informed the UN secretary general that it has officially accepted the Security Council Resolution No 598.

Paper on Iraqi Responsibility for Gulf War

JN1907074288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jul 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Iranian Decision and the Bitter Harvest in Iraq," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Now, after Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 on a cease-fire in the Gulf, we have the right to ask: In whose interest was it to start this war, the most tragic of wars?

It has been clear from the beginning that the Iraqi regime, which started the fire in the Gulf area, was not at all inspired by Iraq's national interest or the interest of the pan-Arab struggle. This is proved by the fact that the war has exhausted Iraq's material and human resources and has to a great extent aborted the possibility of a contribution by the Iranian revolution to the struggle against the Zionist enemy.

In addition, this war came as a direct response to the emergence of the Iranian revolution, which removed one of the largest strongholds of imperialism in the region and destroyed U.S. and Zionist influence in Iran.

This war has been a true tragedy that has inflicted very heavy damage on the Arabs' national and liberation struggle, made a new opening for infiltration by Zionist influence into the region, and created true dangers by passing on to future Arab generations a chronic problem more dangerous than the Zionist occupation; namely, hostility between the Arabs and Iran.

In addition, the fire started by the Iraqi regime in the Gulf has practically exhausted the resources of the Arab Gulf states, be it through supporting the Iraqi regime directly or resorting to expending enormous funds on armaments. This is in addition to the dangers of expanding the fierce conflict and spreading it to new Arab states. Perhaps the most dangerous result of this war is that it has created an excuse for the entry of colonialist navies into the region. Therefore, the independence, and even the existence, of the Arab Gulf states have come under threat.

AL-THAWRAH continues; Since the beginning, Syria has realized the dangers of this destructive war. Therefore, it tried to prevent its outbreak. For this reason, leader Al-Asad exerted great efforts to convince the Iraqi regime not to start the war against Iran. When the war broke out, Syria stood against it, revealed its dangers, and called for ending it. Our people in Iraq, who suffered a great deal from this war, must take into account who started this destructive war.

The hollow slogans now launched by the henchmen of the regime in Baghdad about victory will not be useful in hiding the tragic, dark face of this war. These slogans will not conceal the bitter fact that the Iraqi regime caused all these tragedies, that it is fully resonsible for the catastrophe that has befallen Iraq, and that the Iraqi people will not leave this regime without punishment.

Commentaries Criticize 'Arafat, Abu Sharif

Radio Cites 'Concessions'

JN1707210988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Unattributed talk carried within the "Palestine Broadcast"]

[Text] It emerges from what has hitherto been published about 'Arafat's documents and letters that he went so far in his concessions as to jump on the bandwagon of Camp David and then negotiate with the Zionists along the lines of the Egptian regime's talks with the enemy over Tabah.

'Arafat and his team would like to preside over a regime of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the occupation and settlements still in place. There would then be negotiations between the administration of the 'Arafatist self-rule and the Zionist government about subsequent arrangements.

This means that 'Arafat and his team will move to take over from the crumbling enemy administration and extinguish on behalf of Israel the blessed popular uprising by creating new circumstances. This is because 'Arafat and his team will not be permitted to introduce armed forces. Nor will they be prepared to bring in such forces lest they constitute a constraint on their political movements or a threat to them. They are counting on the security apparatus prepared by the Zionist enemy.

If this happens we wonder: What will distinguish 'Arafat who is trumpeting for this arrangement from any local council in any given Arab village in the Galilee or a municipal council in the West Bank and Gaza Strip? He will have the same status as that of a mayor or a village headman. When 'Arafat accepts for himself such a formula what is there to distinguish his role from that of Rashad al-Shawwa or Ilyas Frayj under the current occupation circumstances?

'Arafat or any Palestinian leader in the position of a PLO Executive Committee chairman ought not to stoop to the level of a headman under occupation. Rather he must be cognizant of his responsibilities as a leader of a people of over 5 million spread throughout the occupied land and the diaspora pending the recovery of their rights and freedom on their homeland.

This goal cannot be achieved through autonomy under occupation at the price of renouncing armed struggle and betraying the pan-Arab responsibility of liberating Palestine. Doubtless whoever accepts dwarfing the PLO's role the way 'Arafat is doing will have to face the stones and firebombs of our people, because he would have turned into a cog in the occupation machine.

'Arafat-Israel 'Contacts'

JN1807054088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Jul 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "It is Very Urgent To Stop This Capitulatory Expansion," AL-BA'TH says: It has been officially confirmed that there have been contacts and exchanges of letters between 'Arafat and his clique on the one hand and Zionist officials on the other.

The statements, carried by news agencies citing 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif and Zionist officials, particularly enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, show that these contacts are intensive and have reached an advanced stage.

The statements of the two sides show that there are definite proposals on the so-called political settlement sought by the two sides. It seems that these contacts and letters are not new. They are very old and return to the stage before the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982. It has been asserted now that this invasion was programmed in accordance with a set plan.

'Arafat's clique is never far away from this plan; it is very close to it in light of what we hear and read with regard to these contacts and exchange of letters. In light of this, we say it is not difficult for anybody to explain what 'Arafat and his clique are doing in Lebanon, against Syria, and against all Arab national forces rejecting the Zionist-American scheme.

AL-BA'TH adds: 'Arafat, of course, is not the only one who is undermining the pan-Arab stand on the conflict with the Zionist enemy. The Saddam Husayn regime has also rendered a great service to the Zionist enemy—a service that had been rendered only by the United States—by imposing on our Iraqi people a war that does not belong to them and that serves only the Zionist enemy. This war has exhausted Iraq economically and socially. The enemy itself said a few days go that the Baghdad regime rendered a great service to Israel through its war with Iran.

AL-BA'TH says: In light of this, should not a swift pan-Arab stand be adopted to stop this capitulatory expansion represented by 'Arafat and his clique?

Radio on 'Capitulatory' Policy

JN1807152288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Mr Bassam Abu Sharif, the so-called advisor of the PLO Executive Committee chairman, did not stop at the document-scandal that he signed and addressed to Israel and the Untied states, and which begged direct capitulatory negotiations with those who stand behind him and his document. He began making statements to the Arab and foreign press in an attempt to explain the document and give justifications, proof, evidence, and theoretical documentation of this policy.

He expressed this policy in the name of 'Arafat and the other office revolutionaries, capitulation theorists, and those who are humiliatingly knocking at the doors of enemies, hoping someone will allow them to enter and sit at a green table to begin the capitulation negotiations.

Bassam Abu Sharif and those behind him were so daring that they claimed that the contents of the document scandal—begging negotiations with the enemy and abandoning the minimum limits of revolutionaries' pride, firmness, and preparedness for sacrifice—are practical translations of Arab summit resolutions and those of the Palestinian National Council [PNC]. Those who criticize them for moving on their knees toward Washington and Tel Aviv are not abiding by those resolutions.

Consequently, those who offer surrender to enemies on papers, regrettably headed by the name of the Palestinian revolution, are the ones that represent the Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian people, the commitment to the pan-Arab cause and the resolutions of the Arab summits and the PNC.

On the other hand, those who firmly adhere to the current pan-Arab aims, represented by rejecting capitulation and adhering to the liberation of occupied Arab territories, the recovery of usurped Arab rights, and the Arab summit resolutions that rejected Camp David and direct negotiations with the enemy and denounced deals and partial and unilateral solutions, are, as they consider, departing from the pan-Arab stand and plotting against the so-called independent national Palestinian decision.

After Al-Sadat, some people, who wanted to theorize capitulation, the Camp David policy, the retreat before the enemy, and the attack against the forces of steadfastness and the Palestinian forces that reject surrender and deviation policies, appeared. This explains the keenness of the symbols of deviation to sabotage relations with Syria, Arab steadfastness forces, and the Palestinian factions that maintain the principled stands of the Palestinian revolution.

The evasion by these symbols of the opportunities to improve relations with the steadfastness forces and consolidate the Arab ranks that adhere to liberation and to Palestinian national rights, was a planned and predetermined action. By no means was it a product of personal factors by this symbol or that.

No one opposes political action by any revolution, including the revolution of the Palestinian people. However, when the political action turns into maneuvers, bargains, and secret contacts in dark places, and when these replace military and political revolutionary action, then this means that those involved have changed from revolutionaries to political merchants, and from men of principle to brokers of the land, rights, and dignity.

It is true that the revolutionaries of Vietnam and Algeria have negotiated. The Vietnam revolutionaries, however, conquered the U.S. war machine by their determination, adherence to their full rights, and sacrifices. They stood fast before all sorts of U.S. crimes.

They entered negotiations not to concede their rights but to demand that the invaders leave the land they occupied. The Algerian revolutionaries, also, negotiated and called for negotiations. But they never compromised the land, nor conceded a right or bargained on their absolute right to freedom, independence, and foreign withdrawal.

Those in Vietnam and Algeria were real revolutionaries on the ground and at the negotiation table. It is regrettable that some people, who described themselves as Palestinian revolutionaries, have conceded even their rights and dignity.

They were racing to retreat before the enemy and to abuse the Palestinian and Arab forces that reject surrender. However, it is fortunate for the nation that the symbols of surrender are not the ones that control the Palestine revolution, the uprising, or pan-Arab policies.

Afghanistan

Statement Calls on U.S. To Honor Geneva Accords

LD1807182688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Statement by a Foreign Ministry spokesman; date not given]

[Text] In an article in THE WASHINGTON POST [word indistinct] concerning the (?supply) of weapons and ammunition, a U.S. State Department spokesman emphasized once again the supply of weapons through Pakistan to the armed Afghan opposition groups. A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan considers these statements by responsible authorities in Washington an act in contravention of the Geneva accords and adds:

In fact, the U.S. State Department spokesman has blatantly tried, through such a statement, to encourage Pakistan in actions contrary to the Geneva accords. These efforts are being made at a time when Pakistan, according to Article 2 of Document No 1 of the Geneva accords, has pledged that it will never allow a third country to use its territory to carry out subversive activities against the Republic of Afghanistan.

It is worth mentioning that the U.S. State Department spokesman has expressed satisfaction that the Afghan armed opposition has sufficient modern weapons and ammunition. This means that the armed extremists are able to continue warring in the Republic of Afghanistan—war and destruction, the [words indistinct] of which have been felt by our people in their bones.

The (?supply) of modern U.S. weapons, including Stinger missiles, mortars, long-range guns, and surface-to-surface missiles with ranges of 20 to 36 km, has caused innumerable deaths and destruction in our country. These weapons are a part of the U.S. military assistance, which during the 10 years of undeclared war against our country exceeds several billion dollars. It is an example of open interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

By supporting such concepts as symmetry in U.S. assistance to the Afghan armed extremists and Soviet assistance to the legal government of the Republic of Afghanistan, the United States is trying to continue supplying weapons which cause nothing but the intensification of regional tension. For example, during the last round of Geneva talks the United States was trying to bring about such a symmetry.

At the time, this U.S. position was resolutely rejected by Afghanistan and the USSR. It was announced many times that assistance to an independent country, which is an active member of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement, assistance which is rendered through historic agreements between states, is different from assistance to extremist and terrorist groups.

The one-sided U.S. statement in this regard cannot undermine the validity and power of the multilateral international Geneva agreements. By virtue of the principles and accepted norms in interstate rights and the UN Charter, as well as signing the Geneva Accords, the United States is dutybound to implement the pledges it made in the accords.

The Republic of Afghanistan demands that the United States, which is itself a guarantor, has signed the Geneva accords, and should respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and nonalignment of Afghanistan, refrain from every sort of interference and intervention in Afghan internal affairs and respect the pledges made in the bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan concerning the principles of mutual relations, in particular concerning noninterference.

It is expected that the United States will refrain from any action which does not contribute toward the implementation of the Geneva accords because such other actions will be in complete contravention to the spirit of the historic agreements signed.

Najibyllah Offers Safe Conduct for 'Id al-Adha

LD1807210788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Statement by the Presidency of Afghanistan:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Dear compatriots, peace-loving brothers and sisters. The policy of national reconciliation is based on the lofty principles of the Islamic shari'a, mercy, and human compassion. By the demand of the absolute majority of our compatriots, it is being carried out as a vital necessity of our people and as a condition for the continuation of Afghanistan's Islamic society.

As a result of this policy, the Geneva agreements were signed. Undeviating implementation of the agreements has had a great impact on the defense of peace, and ensuring reconciliation in our country, in the world, and in the region.

The ulema and scholars of Islamic science, aware of their religious responsibility, put forward a proposal to the Presidency of Afghanistan in accordance with the following verses of the Koran: O believers, enter the circle of peace and do not fight one another because you will fail and your strength will be wasted. Respect the auspicious days of Id for reconciliation among all Afghans, to facilitate the visiting of families in the capital and provinces for all brothers in Islam and our compatriots during the Id days.

The Republic of Afghanistan, in accordance with the peace-loving wishes of the people of Afghanistan and in full compliance with the orders of God and his truthful messenger, Muhammad al-Mustafa, peace be upon him; being aware of its great responsibility toward the creatures of Allah; with great respect for the proposal of the high advisory council of the Presidency declaring these auspicious days as the days of reconciliation and peace, in order to put an end to fratricide and war and to ensure Islamic understanding, which have come about as a result of the prosposal of the ulema, the scholars of Islamic science, and all of our compatriots, hereby declares:

All of our compatriots who have so far been in armed opposition to the government may enter all subdistricts, districts, and provincial capitals, except Kabul, during the days of Id, but without their weapons and with certainty and comfort, in order to visit their families, relatives, friends, and brothers in Islam, to give them Id greetings, and to pass the auspicious days of 'Id al-Adha in happiness, peace, brotherhood, reconciliation, and without anger.

Therefore, the security forces in the capital and the provinces are instructed to take action to ensure the security of all those who return home to visit their relatives, friends, families, and brothers during the auspicious days of 'Id al-Adha in cities, provinces, major districts, districts, and subdistricts. The municipalities should make arrangements for their recreation during the auspicious days so that they may pass Id al-Adha with their children and friends and without fear in their homes.

The Presidency of Afghanistan, with strong belief in the tenets of Islam, considers it a human and Afghan duty in accordance with the orders of God, to call on all Muslims to enter into the circle of Islam. The sacred religion of Islam, God, and his righteous messenger call us to peace, reconciliation, love, brotherhood, help, and unity. Bereaved mothers, widows, sisters, and our country's fatherless children call for an end to the fighting: Do not destroy your country and home.

Once again we call on everyone for peace and reconciliation to change 'Id al-Adha into the real Id of our Muslim compatriots, the 'Id of peace and reconciliation among Afghans so that all Afghans, inspired by these auspicious days, shall be prepared for sacrifice and devotion, for peace and reconciliation. Success comes from God!

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Memoranda Nos 50, 51 on Pakistani Violations

LD1607200288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry Bureau for Coordination with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reports that this afternoon the 50th Afghan memorandum was handed over to the UNGOMAP office in Kabul.

The memorandum gives a comprehensive account of eight blatant Pakistani violations of the provisions of Article 2, Document No 1 of the Geneva accords.

At the same time the 51st Afghan memorandum was handed over to the UNGOMAP office in Kabul. This note deals with eight Pakistani violations of the Geneva accords.

The mission is asked to investigate the violations mentioned and to inform the Afghan Government and the UN secretary general's representative of its findings.

Sharq Meets With UNHCR Representative

LD1407224988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 13, BAKHTAR—Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan Hassan Sharq received Peter Bertrand, head of the Representative of the Higher Commissary of UN in the Refugees Affairs [as received], at his office today.

During the meeting views were exchanged pertaining to the forthcoming activities of the said UN commissary of the refugees affairs in Afghanistan.

Based on the third instrument of the Geneva agreements and the protocol signed in Geneva, an office for the Higher Commissary of United Nations for Refugees Affairs was officially inaugurated today in Kabul.

The above mentioned office has been established aimed at residence rehabilitation and paving the ground in providing facilities for the repatriates in the country.

Second Mujahidin Group Backs Cordovez Plan

BK1807104488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1026 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 18 (AFP)—A moderate Afghan rebel group expressed support Monday for a peace plan proposed recently by former U.N. envoy Diego Cordovez.

The National Front for the Liberation of Afghanistan said "we favourably consider the efforts of Mr Cordovez for the peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem, if it would lead to the establishment of a neutral government—comprised of real Islamic, patriotic and neutral elements."

The new government should also "completely remove" the communist regime in Kabul, the front said in a statement.

The group, led by Sigbatullah Mujadeddi, expressed support for the convening of a loya jirgha or tribal assembly as proposed by Mr Cordovez to enable rival Afghan factions to reach agreement on a future Afghan government.

The front is the second moderate Afghan group to come out in support of Mr Cordovez's plan, aired during a visit to Islamabad earlier this month.

Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) expressed support for the plan at a press conference here Thursday.

Mr Gaylani is currently chief of the seven-party resistance alliance based in Peshawar, but the coalition is divided over Mr Cordovez's proposals.

The four fundamentalist factions refused to meet the Ecuadorian diplomat during his visit here, while the three moderate groups were in favour of talks. The rebels were left out of an accord negotiated by Mr Cordovez in Geneva in April paving the way for a Soviet troop withdrawal.

A NIFA cadre contacted by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Monday said his group welcomed Mr Mujadeddi's expression of support.

But an official of the radical fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar Monday accused Mr Mujadeddi of being an "agent" of former Afghan King Zahir Shah, who is currently in exile in Italy.

The Hezb-e Eslami is strongly opposed to any role for the former king in an Afghan settlement.

Despite differences over the peace proposals, rebel leaders want to avoid a split in the alliance with the Soviet withdrawal due to end on February 15 and fighting continuing between rebels and Afghan forces, analysts said.

Two of the four fundamentalist groups, the Hezb-e Eslami (Khalis) and the Jamiyat-e Eslami group, appear to be hesitating on the attitude to take concerning Mr Cordovez's proposals and could be seeking a compromise, observers said.

Mr Cordovez, who announced his plan at the end of a 11-day shuttle mission which also took him to Iran and Kabul, called for a cease-fire in Afghanistan from September 1 to pave the way for the convening of a loya jirgah and the establishment of a neutral government of "peace and reconciliation."

Mr Cordovez, who mediated the Geneva accord on Afghanistan for the United Nations, is now working in a personal capacity to try to achieve a broad-based government in Kabul.

National Front Council Elects Deputy Chairman

LD1407230188 Kabul Bakhtar in English 0430 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 13, BAKHTAR—The Executive Board of the country's National Front Central Council went to session to discuss some organisational matters.

The session which was presided over by Mr 'Abdurrahim Hatif, vice-president of the Republic of Afghanistan and chairman of the front's Central Council elected Sayyed Ekram Paygir as first deputy chairman of the Central Council of the National Front of Afghanistan.

The session decided to decided the number of deputies to the chairman of the National Front from ten to two persons. The collective membership of high Jirgah of tribes and the Central Council of Hazara nationality were abolished due to the formation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Some other issues pertaining to the front's inner life were also discussed by the session.

AFP: Mujahidin Still Receiving U.S. Weapons

BK1807161488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1602 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 18 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas are still being supplied with arms from the United States, diplomats and resistance sources said Monday, denying press reports that the flow of weapons had virtually been cut.

But both the moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) and the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami rebel groups said the flow of arms had declined in recent months.

"We were already getting a meagre supply and the flow diminished in the past few months," a NIFA spokesman said.

THE WASHINGTON POST said Saturday that Pakistan had cut the flow of virtually all weapons supplied by the United States to Afghan rebels. The paper said the Pakistani move was approved by the United States and resulted from pressure from Moscow and the United Nations.

Little more than small arms and ammunition were reaching the rebels, while the supply of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and heavy weaponry such as mortars has been virtually stopped, THE POST said.

But diplomatic sources here dismissed the report. They said the United States would continue to supply arms on the basis of a "symmetry" clause in the Geneva accord signed April 14 to pave the way for a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. The clause allows the United States to continue supplying arms to the rebels as long as Soviet arms shipments to the Afghan army did not cease.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting U.S. State Department sources, also reported that U.S. assistance to the rebels had not been halted.

In a despatch from Washington, the official Pakistani news agency quoted a U.S. spokesman as saying "the U.S. position is that assistance to the resistance should continue unless the Soviets agree to stop assistance to the illegitimate Kabul regime."

"They (Soviet Union) have not done so," the U.S. spokesman added.

Soviet Officer Comments on Troop Withdrawal

LD1407225288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0424 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 13, BAKHTAR—The withdrawal of the Soviet limited military contingent from Afghanistan to their peaceful country demonstrates the full observance of the Geneva agreements by the Government of the Soviet Union, says Vladimir Nabatov, a Soviet officer in an interview here with our military correspondent.

The Soviet limited military contingent return from Afghanistan to their country at a time when the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has paved all the grounds for putting an end to a bloody war which has been continued since ten years in Afghanistan, he pointed out.

"During my stay in Afghanistan, I have visited Qandahar, Herat, Ghazni, Kabul and Nangarhar Provinces. I found out that the Afghans are brave and hospitable", he recalled.

The policy of national reconciliation was announced in the Afghan land and it enjoys wide support of the people. Furthermore, the Afghan Armed Forces are now capable of defending independently the territorial integrity of their country. All these provided the condition for the return of the Soviet military contingent from Afghanistan after accomplishing their internationalist mission, the officer stated.

Clashes Continue Between Armed Forces, Rebels

30 Rebels Killed in Nangarhar

LD1507184588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] The criminal and extremist groups who attempted to disrupt the peace of our compatriots in the surroundings of Khugianay, (Haska Maina), and Shiveh Districts, Nangarhar Province, yesterday came under the crushing blows of the country's Armed Forces.

The military section of BIA reports that as a result of timely action by the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province, carried out with the direct cooperation of the districts' inhabitants, 12 of these professional criminals were killed in the surroundings of Shiveh District; 11 terrorists were killed in the Khugianay District area; and another 7 men, including Toryalay, a ringleader, were killed in the environs of (Haska Maina) District, and two of them were seriously injured.

The report adds that many weapons and ammunition of these elements were destroyed by the Armed Forces of this province.

Rebels Killed on Jalalabad Road

LD1507200388 Kabul Dometic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] A group of armed extremists and highway robbers who were trying to steal property belonging to our compatriots along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, were crushed by the security forces recently.

According to BAKHTAR's military section, as a result of this timely action by the security forces, 11 of these criminals, including Nayk Mohammad and Habibullah, two of the group's ringleaders, were killed.

12 Killed in Sorkhrod Area

LD1507201888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1600 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] A serious clash took place recently between armed extremist groups in the region of Torghar, Sorkhrod District, Nangarhar Province, continuing the intensification of internal disagreements between the extremists.

According to a report by BAKHTAR's military section, as a result of heavy weapons' fire between the groups, 12 people from both sides of the clash were killed.

Mujahidin Intensify Operations

BK1607034588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin have further intensified their operations in Afghanistan, inflicting heavy losses of life and property to Kabul troops. In an operation in Nangarhar, they killed eight Kabul soldiers and hit six tanks. In separate operations in Zabol, Qandahar, and Herat Provinces, the mujahidin killed 115 Kabul soldiers and destroyed 8 tanks and other vehicles.

The mujahidin shot down a military aircraft in Vardak Province and a helicopter in Badakhshan Province, killing everyone on the helicopter.

The Afghan mujahidin also captured an area east of the capital, Kabul, after an intensive operation that lasted 2 weeks. A total of 218 Kabul soldiers were killed and 156 captured by mujahidin during this operation.

Rebel Attacks Noted

LD1607090888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 15, BAKHTAR—Two persons were killed and four others wounded as a result of artillery attacks of the criminal extremists in the sub-district of Marah Warah in Konar Province, reports our military correspondent from thar province. A mosque and eight residential houses were damaged during the attacks as well.

Our reporter writes from Paktia Province that three people, including two children, were martyred by the fires of the extremist over the residential areas of Rod-i-Ahmadzai [placename as received] of Sayyed Karam District of Gardeyz on Wednesday. During the attacks the Shahi Qambar Shrine [name as received] and eight residential houses were severely damaged.

Two residential houses and four shops were also entirely demolished during the heavy armed attacks of the extremists in the Paktika Province recently.

Rebel Operations Around Kabul

BK1607154588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin have tightened their grip around the Afghan capital of Kabul. The reports say that the mujahidin attacks on the capital have increased recently both in intensity and frequency. The latest rocket attack was launched yesterday.

A bloody clash was reported between the mujahidin and the forces of the Najibullah regime north of Kabul on Thursday. According to another report, the mujahidin attacked a convoy carrying oil on the Salang Highway in Parvan Province last week. At least 18 tankers were destroyed and four of them were captured by the mujahidin during the attack.

A patrolling party of the Kabul regime forces was attacked in the town of Baghlan. Five soldiers were captured along with their arms and ammunition. In another operation, the mujahidin damageu a tank and killed four soldiers of the Kabul regime. In Laghman Province, 20 soldiers of the Kabul regime defected to the mujahidin.

200 Rebels Killed in Nangarhar

LD1607160688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section reported that a terrorist extremist group who had been engaged in armed activities in the surroundings of Nagarhar Province, have recently been crushed by the country's Armed Forces.

As a result of the operation carried out by the Armed Forces in this province on repeated demands by our compatriots, 200 criminals, including 8 ringleaders, were killed.

During this operation, the hideout places of this group were completely destroyed.

270 'Extremists' Killed in Bamian

LD1607171988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] BIA's military section reports that armed extremists and criminal groups, which had been disrupting the peace of our compatriots in Bamian Province, recently came under crushing blows from the country's Armed Forces.

The report adds that this action by the Armed Forces—carried out with the full cooperation of the inhabitants of the province—resulted in 270 armed and criminal extremists, including their five ringleaders, being killed, and 30 men, including ringleader (Zabihullah), seriously injured. One DShK, a recoilless gun, a mortar, and 20 various light weapons were seized by the Armed Forces, and the ammunition dumps of the armed extremists destroyed.

According to another report, mopping-up operations in the Achin district of Nangarhar Province resulted in a number of armed extremists being crushed. The report notes that the Armed Forces killed 85 armed extremists, including a ringleader named (Qari Ahsanullah).

Mujahidin Operations Noted

BK1707040888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] The Kabul administration's leader, Dr Najibullah, has said that recently, the attacks of mujahidin on the capital of Afghanistan and other areas have increased. He said this in a speech broadcast over Radio Kabul. Radio Kabul has reported about clashes between the mujahidin and the forces of the Najibullah administration.

Other reports from Afghanistan also say that the mujahidin have been carrying out major operations against the Kabul administration. The mujahidin attacked military posts in the (Gaun) District of Nimruz Province, inflicting heavy casualties to the forces of the Kabul administration and seizing a large quantity of ammunition. The mujahidin captured about 200 Kabul soldiers after fierce fighting in Emam Saheb District in Konduz Province. They have also seized a large quantity of arms and food materials.

The mujahidin made rocket attacks on military posts near Baghran garrison in Parvan Province, damaging two posts. Yet another report says the mujahidin shot down a helicopter gunship last Friday [15 July]. According to reports, jets of the Kabul administration bombed several villages in Takhar Province, inflicting heavy casualties to the civilian population and damaging many houses.

'Heavy Fighting' Near Jalalabad

BK1707113488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin are engaged in operations near Jalalabad against the Kabul regime. Heavy fighting is continuing to capture the subdivisional town of Achin. Three security posts of the Najib regime have been destroyed in the area, while 12 troops have been killed. In (Kunarbaghi), the mujahidin wiped out two security posts near Asadabad, the provincial headquarters and subdivisional town of Asmar. Eighteen Kabul troops in the Panjvai area of Qandahar Province, along with their arms and ammunition, have defected to the mujahidin.

Mujahidin Claim Maydan Shahr

BK1707162488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1610 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 17 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance has regained control of Maydan Shahr in Vardak Province, the mujahidin said in Pakistan Sunday.

The guerrillas had occupied the town for about 20 hours last month, but were pushed back by Afghan Government forces.

A resistance communique issued in Peshawar, bordering Afghanistan, said the rebels had recaptured the town, but did not say when.

"Maydan Shahr is in mujahidin hands," it said, adding that the guerrillas foiled an Afghan Army counteroffensive. The guerrillas "inflicted heavy casualties in a fierce confrontation," it said.

The mujahidin destroyed eight tanks, 11 other military vehicles and blew up munitions after overrunning six newly-installed military posts, it said. The regime forces were forced to move into Takht Pass and the Nerkh region under rebel pressure, the communique quoting field commanders said.

The mujahidin are also in control of the highway linking Kabul with the country's second-biggest city, Qandahar in the south, the resistance said.

Kabul's convoys taking reinforcements to troops stranded in Qandahar were using an alternate route through Gardeyz, it said.

Rebel sources quoting reports from northern Konduz Province said mujahidin attacked a large Soviet convoy carrying military supplies for troops in Badakhshan June 20.

The sources said that, after the attack, the convoy passed villages and hamlets, opening fire indiscriminately and shelling residential areas, killing many civilians.

The Soviet troops destroyed houses and burned crops, they said, before again being attacked by mujahidin at Dariam village near Badakhshan City and losing many men and much material. Soviet planes then bombed residential areas inflicting casualties, the sources said.

Rebel Leaders Killed

LD1707173188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] As a result of the shattering blows of the Armed Forces, extremist groups which were engaged in subversive and terrorist activities at the Achin and Nazian districts of Nangarhar Province suffered heavy losses.

According to the BAKHTAR military correspondent's report, as a result of crushing extremist groups belonging to the Gulbuddin and Yunis Khalis bands, a large number of the extremist elements, including five of their ringleaders with the names of (Qari Ehsanullah); (Abdul Habib); (Najibullah); (Zaman-Landay), general chief of the four parties; and ('Abdul Halim), were killed and 132 were severely wounded.

Also, (Saz Nur) and (Aminullah), two other ringleaders, have lost both feet as a result of blows by the Armed Forces. The report adds that a quantity of the weapons and ammunition of the extremists, including a BM-12 unit, 8 medium-range rocket launchers, 6 recoilless guns, 5 mortars, 169 pieces of light weapons, and 2 communication units, were completely destroyed.

According to another report, an armed extremist group which was disrupting the peaceful life of (Shpola) village in the Haska Mena district of Nangarhar Province was recently crushed by the security forces. The report says that the extremist elements left behind 4 killed and 1 wounded.

Artillery Shells Kabul Hills

BK1807140488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1358 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 18 (AFP)—Soviet artillery units have pounded hills running through the centre of Kabul in a dramatic response to recent rebel rocket attacks on the Afghan capital, Western diplomats said here Monday.

The Soviet units based at the Dar ol Aman Garrison launched the two-hour bombardment Friday on the Kuhe Sher Darwaza Hills towards the south, firing only 200 meters above the downtown area, the diplomats said.

They said it was unclear if the shells hit houses on the hillside.

Residents who gathered at a nearby cemetery to watch the bombardment described it as "dangerous and mad," the diplomats said.

Soviet artillery units based at the Khair Khana Garrison also bombarded the Khawaja Rawzaq Afshar Hills, immediately north of Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel, the diplomats said.

According to the diplomats, the rebels have moved to within 10 kilometres from central Kabul and are occupying hills overlooking the city, threatening important government garrisons defending Kabul.

They said the bombardment could have been a response to rebel activity in the hills, from where diplomats and Afghans say the mujahidin have twice in recent weeks launched rockets onto the city.

The Soviet news agency TASS reported that 20 civilians had died Friday, the same day as the Soviet bombardment, in rebel rocket attacks on Kabul. The guerrilla groups based in Pakistan denied responsibility for the attacks.

The diplomats said the Soviet reponse underscored the extent to which the rebels appeared capable of penetrating the Kabul defense perimeter.

Kabul Rocket Attack Kills 8

LD1907053588 Moscow TASS in English 0525 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul July 19 TASS—Early today the residential areas of the Afghan capital were again subjected to rocket shelling. Rockets fell on the city streets and crossroads when Kabul residents were on their way to work. As a result of the explosion of one rocket alone eight people were killed and nine others wounded in Khakeran District. The number of victims of the new crime by extremists in other areas of the capital is not known yet.

Rebels Down Army Plane

BK1907082988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad July 19 (AFP)—An Afghan Army colonel and six other military men were killed when rebel fighters shot down their plane Sunday [17 July] near Kabul, Western diplomats here reported Tuesday.

They could not identify the exact site of the crash, but said wreckage from the plane fell on the Kabul area.

India

5 Intruders Apprehended, Arms Captured in Punjab

BK1507161388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, security forces have apprehended five intruders and recovered from them large quantities of arms, ammunition, and gold biscuits in three encounters. According to reports reaching the Border Security Force [BSF] headquarters in New Delhi, in a joint raid with the police, BSF men nabbed a miscreant, Malkiat Singh, on the night of 13th and 14th. Ten rockets hidden in a fertilizer bag were recovered from his farm.

In another incident yesterday morning, three miscreants, Surinder Singh, alias Chitta; Barinder Singh, alias Chena; and Ajit Singh, alias Jita, were taken into custody. One Sten gun, three revolvers, and several live and fired cartridges were recovered from them.

In the third incident, Rajeshwar Pal Singh and Birender Singh were apprehended while coming from Pakistan.

Twenty gold biscuits weighing 4 kilograms and valued at 6 lakh rupees were recovered from them along with some Indian currency.

Over 450 Punjab Terrorists Killed in Last Year

BK1607063188 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Away in Punjab, seven more terrorists have been arrested by security forces. Six of them were apprehended during raids in Faridkot District. One was arrested in Ferozepore District after a brief encounter. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them. Elsewhere in the state, three persons have been killed by terrorists in separate incidents.

In Punjab, over 450 terrorists living by the gun met their end similarly over the last year. Giving these figures at a high-level meeting of police officers in Chandigarh, the Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, said that nearly 135 policemen had also died in the fight against terrorism. Mr Ray lauded the state police for their courage, dedication, and devotion to duty in protecting the unity of the country.

INSAT-1C To Launch From French Guiana 22 Jul

BK1707161788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] The Indian national satellite—INSAT-1C—will be launched from Kourou Island in French Guiana in the early hours of Friday [22 July]. The satellite will be an in-orbit companion for INSAT-1B and will carry a payload for television, telecommunication, and weather forecast.

The space commission chairman, Professor U.R. Rao, told our Bangalore correspondent that the Indian-built INSAT-1C will be hoisted into its geostationary orbit by the European Space Agency's Ariane-3 rocket. The satellite has already been mated with the Ariane launch vehicle and is now undergoing checks by ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] and Ariane scientists.

Prof Rao denied reports appearing in a section of the press that Sriharikota station is not suitable for spacecraft launching. He said the preliminary report on the cause of the failure of the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle—ASLV-D2—will be available within a week.

Nonaligned New Delhi Meeting on Cambodia Held

BK1707160288 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA/OANA 17 July—Vice-Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien attended a meeting of senior officials from selected nonaligned countries in New Delhi on 15-16 July to discuss ways of finding a political solution to the Kampuchean issue.

The meeting was convened upon the joint agreement reached by Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe; Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India; and Fidel Castro, president of Cuba and chairmen respectively of the 8th, 7th and 6th summit conferences of the Nonaligned Movement, according to a press statement of the meeting.

Below is the full text of the press statement:

A meeting of senior officials from selected nonaligned countries was held in New Delhi on 15-16 July 1988 to consider a possible nonaligned initiative for resolving the Kampuchean question.

The initiative for this meeting was taken by the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

The following countries participated in this meeting: Cuba, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

It was chaired by his Excellency Dr. E.K. Mashingaidze, permanent secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe. This was an exploratory meeting to suggest possible ways for finding an end to the conflict in Kampuchea. After a comprehensive exchange of views, the meeting recommended that the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement might send a special envoy to get in touch with the four Kampuchean factions to obtain their view on a possible settlement. This nonaligned meeting is complementary to the Jakarta informal meeting which will take place on 25 July 1988.

It was decided to hold a second meeting of senior officials from selected nonaligned countries in Harare tentatively on 10 August 1988; that meeting will be held in order to continue exchanging views for making (?clear) the course of action for finding a politically negotiated settlement of the Kampuchean question, including the possibility of holding a ministerial meeting for this purpose.

Envoy To Visit Cambodia

BK1607160288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] A special envoy of the Nonaligned Movement is to visit Kampuchea to obtain the views of the four factions on a possible settlement of the Kampuchean issue. This has been recommended by a 2-day meeting of senior officials from some nonaligned countries, which concluded in New Delhi today. The initiative for the meeting was taken up by the chairman of the movement, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, and besides India and Zimbabwe, officials from Cuba, Indonesia and Vietnam attended it.

CPI-M Leader Comments on Changes in USSR

BK1807100088 Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jul 88 pp 1,6

[By Debasish Chatterjee]

[Text] CPI-M General Secretary E.M.S. Naboodiripad [EMS] has said that the Soviet Communist Party's "unbalanced praise" of Mr Rajiv Gandhi and other Third World leaders could have an "adverse impact" on these countries.

In his first interview after the 19th CPSU Conference recently, Mr Namboodiripad told PATRIOT that the communist parties and the organised working class movement would have to be vigilant against the tendency to follow the Soviet line in relation to them.

The CPI-M leader is leaving for Moscow on Thursday [14 July] night with his wife on a 3-week visit for what party spokesman described as "rest and treatment."

In his interview the communist leader asserted that "we in India, as many other fraternal parties, are today mature enough to defend our people against the onslaughts of the ruling classes here," even though the Soviet comrades for their reasons praise our ruling circles here.

On the issue of the de-Stalinisation drive launched in the Soviet Union, the veteran communist leader drew distinctions between the personalities cult of Stalin, the big role he played in building Soviet society in an extremely difficult world situation and the repressive regime established in his days.

The CPI-M leader pointed out that the pre-split CPI critique made at the undivided party's 20th Congress holds good today and asserted that his party is opposed to any "de-Stalinisation" which will repudiate the "glorious development of Soviet society."

EMS however did not comment on the content of perestroyka and glasnost as he felt they relate to the "internal situation and problems of the Soviet party."

He said that the terms "presidential form of government" and "socialism with a human face" were used by the press to describe a process "too complex to be put into oversimplified formulas."

Text of the interview:

Question: What is your overall assessment of the reforms endorsed by the CPSU conference, particularly those relating to a presidential form of government and the call for socialism with a human face?

Answer: Reports available up to now show that the 19th Conference of the CPSU was a serious effort to implement the earlier decisions taken on perestroyka and glasnost. Since they relate to the internal situation and problems of the Soviet party, I am unable to make any comment on its content. I, however, feel that "the presidential form of government" and "socialism with a human face" are terms used by the press to describe a process too complex to be put into oversimplified formulae.

Question: How do you view the changes being initiated in the Soviet and Chinese economies with private enterprise being utilised in the drive to increase production?

Answer: It is well known that the Chinese party had made serious mistakes of a leftist character in the 60's and 70's. The Soviet party too had to discard the earlier understanding that the time had come for society in that country to start building communism. It is of course possible that, when you correct mistakes of a leftist character, you fall into the opposite mistake.

Whether that is taking place in the Soviet Union or China is primarily for the Soviet and Chinese comrades themselves, through the democratic process, to discuss and correct, if necessary. That, however, is no reason why the corrections that are being made should be denounced as negation of socialism, as is done in an oversimplified manner by some people.

Question: Why has there been no debate at various levels of your party on the issues flowing from the changes taking place in the Soviet Union since Mikhail Gorbachev became general secretary of the CPSU?

Answer: The question is based on a wrong assumption. It is not as if we do not discuss the developments in the Soviet Union. We, however, make public comments only on those aspects of Soviet development which concern their foreign policy or otherwise affect our movement.

Question: What are your feelings about the de-Stalinisation process in the Soviet Union, including the historical rehabilitation of Trotskiy?

Answer: Our pre-split CPI had made an evaluation of the 20th congress critique of Stalin and that holds good even today; while we had joined the Soviet and other foreign comrades in criticising the personality cult of Stalin (whose consequences are more and more being now revealed), we positively appraise him as the leader who played a big role in building Soviet society in an extremely difficult world situation. We are opposed to any "de-Stalinisation" which will repudiate the glorious development of Soviet society. This, however, would not make us defend the repressive regime established in his days.

Question: What are your impressions about the impact of the reforms in the Soviet Union on liberation movements in various regions all over the world?

Answer: Economics and political reforms in the USSR would not have any direct impact on national-liberation movements. It is the foreign policy which does have such an impact. While the general tenor of Soviet foreign policy helps the liberation movement, the unbalanced praise showered on the leaders of Third World countries (like Rajiv Gandhi) would have an adverse impact, unless the communist parties and the organised working class movements are vigilant against the tendency to follow the Soviet line in relation to them.

We in India as many other fraternal parties are today mature enough to defend our people against the onslaughts of the ruling classes here, even though the Soviet comrades, for their reasons, praise our ruling circles.

Question: What relevance do these changes in the Soviet Union have for your party and the Indian situation?

Answer: The changes in the Soviet Union, if successful, would tremendously strengthen the anti-imperialist movement throughout the world and so in India as well. But as noted above, the organised working class movement and the communist parties should be ever vigilant, lest they should be carried away by the pro-Rajiv stand adopted by the Soviet leaders.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference

NC1807180588 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1733 GMT 18 Jul 88

[News conference by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis and acting commander in chief, with unidentified correspondents in Tehran on 18 July—recorded]

[Text] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Islamic Republic finally reached a historic and important decision recently which, with the decision of the imam of the ummah to accept a cease-fire.

This will open a new chapter in our history. This decision depends on many things which I cannot explain for the time being because most of them concern military and political secrets.

The imam instructed us to call a meeting of influential ulema and political dignitaries and officials. The meeting was held; and he issued a message which was read and studied at the meeting yesterday.

Ultimately, a method was decided upon and the first step was to announce the acceptance of the resolution. The officials also discussed the imam's views on a wider scale today. Of course, in the coming days starting with today, our dear people and our nation will gradually be informed of the issue—naturally, to an extent which will not allow the enemy to exploit the situation.

I should point out here that in the future the utmost attention should be paid to the revered families of the martyrs and the wounded of the war, and to those who during this period of war seriously invested in the fronts, to the fighters and to the maimed, to the POW's and to anyone who invested, in one way or another, in this war, in this sacred holy war. They played the greatest role in this revolution and for this revolution. The government is committed and responsible toward them.

In brief, as our nation trusts its imam and its officials, I would like to say definitely that this step was taken in the interests of Islam and of the ummah and there are no signs of weakness in it. I ask the people to give us time to explain this further, and they will receive answers from us in due course.

[Unidentified correspondent] What are the new conditions that led to the acceptance of the resolution [words indistinct] and the declaration of a cease-fire?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There are many things, some of which I cannot explain now. One very clear issue, which our people might also know, is that both from practical experience and from the information we have on hand it has become evident to us that world blasphermy and arrogance has decided, at this juncture, to seriously prevent our rapid victory. Insistence by us at this point could lead to extraordinary losses for our people and for the Iraqi people.

We, and especially the imam, did not consider such things as advisable in our calculations. An example of this is the strange obduracy displayed by the Americans in the Persian Gulf with the downing of a passenger plane carrying over 200 passengers. The allegation that a mistake was made is not acceptable in any way. In our opinion this was to be considered as a warning rather than anything else.

Saddam has been guilty of extraordinary stubborness within his own country, particularly as thousands of villages have been destroyed and the people massacred with chemical weapons. They dispersed the people in a most atrocious manner. Tens of thousands of these people have now come to Iran and tens of thousands have gone to the camps to the west of Iraq. A massacre is taking place in Iraq, and the Iraqis have taken a fierce stand on the battlefront, with the permission of arrogant regimes, by using extremely dangerous chemical gases.

This was unprecedented in former wars, in World War I and World War II. This shows that he has been given permission to perpetrate any crime and they have placed unprecedented, incredible, and unlimited resources at Iraq's disposal. We saw an example of this in the missiles, and we see more important examples on the battlefields. These conditions as a whole and many other similar things which I cannot discuss now made us conclude that it is in the interest of the revolution, the Iranian people, and the peoples of Iraq and the region to accept this [Resolution 598]. His holiness the imam too has always acted in the interests of Islam.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, after the acceptance of the resolution by Iran, how will this resolution be implemented?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The usual thing is that when the parties announce the acceptance of a resolution, the secretary general and the Security Council as a rule determine a time for the cease-fire. This time should be observed by the parties. Then the paragraphs of the resolution will be carried out in order. The parties should return to recognized international borders as stated in the resolution.

POW's should be exchanged. The committee which will determine who the aggressor is should begin their task. The foreign forces that have gathered in the Persian Gulf on this pretext should leave. Then talks will be held for the final resolution of the issue. This is the order in which these events appear in the resolution. If you see the paragraphs of the resolution, you will see them clearly, (?and you can) publish the resolution in the mass media.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in view of the fact that part of the territories of the two countries of Iran and Iraq is in the hands of the army of the opposing side, what will the situation of these territories be after Iran's acceptance of the resolution?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Naturally, after the acceptance of this, both sides should return to the points that are agreed on as international borders. For example, the Iraqis are now in one of our cities, Naft-e Shah. Some of our heights are still in the hands of Iraq. In certain places we hold some of the Iraqi heights. If it is accepted and implementation agreed upon, this is the first thing that should be done.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will talks be held? And if talks are held between Iranian and Iraqi officials, how will this delegation be constituted?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Nothing has been discussed about this. Naturally, the activity will pivot around the UN secretary general. As for the mode of talks—how these talks will be held, and whether delegations from Iran and Iraq will go there or meet with him separately—no specific decisions have been made. If the issue becomes serious, then this should be decided too. What has happened now is that we have announced we have accepted the resolution. Until now we have said that first of all, the committee to determine the aggressor must be formed.

This is the fourth or fifth paragraph of the resolution. We said this should be the first thing implemented. However, the new conditions have led us to turn away from what we said previously and to declare that this committee should be formed at its proper time and place. We never rejected the resolution. We have always said that we do not reject the resolution. However, we had a condition, and we have now waived this condition.

[Unidentified correspondent] There are rumors that the retreat of the Islamic Republic's forces from Al-Faw, Halabjah, and other areas took place on the basis of an agreement. How true are these rumors?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is obvious that these ridiculous remarks were made by the counterrevolution. Wherever our fighters retreated—except for Halabjah and Hajj 'Umran, when they retreated on orders—they did so fighting and giving martyrs. In some places, for example in Al-Faw, they fought for 36 hours. They fought for an entire day and night in Halabjah... [correcting himself] in Shalamcheh. How can one say such things to the fighters without their being aware of it?

In other words, how can orders be issued to our fighters on a vast scale without the people hearing about it? No. Everywhere, until the moment that it was decided to accept the resolution, everything was normal. In two cases, as I said, the fighters were ordered to retreat for reasons determined by the General Staff. In the other cases, the enemy attacked and our fighters put up a serious and devoted fight and retreated in the way that they chose.

[Unidentified correspondent] How would you (?describe) the Islamic Republic's present defense strategy in view of adopting new the positions?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We continue to stand by our previous word; that is, we think that the aggressor should be punished and our rights restored. Nothing has changed, apart from one condition that we had, which was that the committee to determine the aggressor should be announced first and then a cease-fire be implemented. We have waived this condition. When we were assured that the formation of this committee will be such that it will truly seek justice, we waived this condition and said that it can be implemented in its turn.

The manner of our holy war may change; the programs for war tactics may be implemented in a different way in the future. However, this does not have anything to do with the acceptance of the resolution. This is a special program. With this acceptance, only one of our conditions has currently been ignored.

[Unidentified correspondent] In view of the [word indistinct] of the Islamic Republic's official statement, have sufficient [word indistinct] (?guarantees) been achieved for the full implementation of Resolution No 598?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As for sufficient guarantees, I say no. We thought that by accepting this resolution we would not lose anything but would gain something. Unfortunately, world propaganda has portrayed us as warmongers. Even though Saddam—and the Ba'thist Party—is an aggressor and even though he violates all international laws, by having adopted a specific slogan, which is that he has accepted the resolution and accepts international judgment, he has put up a facade of popular logic. World opinion is fooled by such propaganda and says that it is Iran that wants to continue the war.

By our new moves, we have shown that we are flexible on this. Either the resolution will be properly implemented and the committee that will be formed will be serious—in which case, we too will be serious or, in other words, we will obtain our right and continue the path that we have started—or the contrary will prove to be true and they will show that they do not want to act. In this case, we can still do in the future what we could have done now. Therefore, we think that by accepting this resolution, we will be able to thwart the poisonous propaganda that has been carried out against us in the world and which has distracted the opinion of many Muslims and maybe that of the Iraqi nation and Arab nations.

I think that this is an effective political step. It is also militarily important, because within our country there have also been suggestions. We have opponents in Iran who say: Why are you being obstinate? If tomorrow it becomes clear that despite our flexibility, they [the Iraqis] still do not want to conform with what is right, then our opponents within the country will be disarmed, and our people will no longer be fooled by this domestic propaganda and will see that we have no other alternative. We then can continue on our path.

We have maintained our readiness. We have maintained our forces. Our forces should remain prepared on the fronts and behind the fronts. Our people should be ready. With the acceptance of the resolution the dispute is not actually over. It has been suspended until we see how the terms of the resolution are implemented.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We should do whatever we had to do, apart from the war. If the cease-fire is established, the war on the battlefronts will end. However, regarding the orders the imam issued to me, that is, the coordination of the Armed Forces and the IRGC, the elimination of unnecessary duplication of efforts, the placing of the government's resources at the disposal of the Armed Forces—naturally, if there are proper opportunities, better and longer training will be carried out—the activities pertaining to the support of the war should continue. To a certain extent, even the presence of the people on the battlefronts should continue, but without confrontation.

Some of our dear basijis who have truly been the main reservists of this holy war, the tip of the arrow of our struggle and those to whom we owe all the victories that we scored during the past 7 or 8 years, should, in a (?lesser) way if the cease-fire is accepted, maintain their connection with the battlefronts, with the armies, the units, the people behind the front, the garrisons, and the bases. They should do this until we are sure we will truly achieve peace and calm. I consider the attainment of peace and calm as probable. However, I am not very optimistic either.

[Unidentified correspondent] After the acceptance of Resolution No 598, how will the (?withdrawal) of U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf be carried out?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] On the basis of the said agreement, the Americans do not have the right to be present in the region. In other words, if that article is violated too, then the implementation of the resolution will be defective and the resolution will not have been observed. Of course, they cannot be trusted. They are looking for a pretext in order to preserve their influence in the region.

However, we will insist on this. Basically speaking, we consider America and Russia as sources of sedition in this issue. In other words, the main issue concerns them. Actually, throughout this period we have been fighting with America and Russia. However, the Iraqi Ba'thist Party also entered the arena.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, (?there was a meeting) between (?representatives of the three branches), Majlis deputies and some other officials. What were the topics that were discussed during this meeting?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There have been many meetings. We had meetings in order to discuss the conditions on the fronts. These meetings were attended by the heads of the three branches and some military officials. We summed up the situation and informed the imam. Then there was the meeting to which I referred, during which the imam sent his decision in the form of a written message. The message was read there and discussions were held on the ways to implement it. The outcome was the acceptance of the cease-fire.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, tonight the Security Council is to meet and to adopt a position on the passenger plane. What impact will the [word indistinct] of the (?war) have on the results of this Security Council meeting?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is not very clear now. There are two sides to this issue. One is that they may want to exploit this situation and adopt a less firm position. The other is that possibly by seeing that we are flexible, they too will act more logically in order to encourage us and show that if we are flexible then they too are prepared to cooperate.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi- Rafsanjani, the question that arises is: Why did Iran not accept this resolution sooner? Why did it wait 1 year to do so?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We did not reject the resolution. We stated our condition: The committee to determine the aggressor must first be formed. Recently, it was shown that very bitter incidents may take place in the region, and the turning point of this was the downing of our passenger plane. All our calculations led us to believe that the issue was not an ordinary one. In other words, the United States announced that if the Islamic Republic wants to continue its acts, then it may commit immense crimes. We saw this act as a message to this effect.

If you remember, in a message to the imam, Ayatollah Montazeri stated that we should seek the cause and forget the effect. He was clearly of the opinion that now that the United States is entering the arena in this way, we should concentrate our main struggle against the United States and cut off the hand of the United States, Iraq being merely the lackey of America. Therefore, we should concentrate on this as the main point. This was the first opinion voiced on this some days ago, but in an ambiguous and allusive way. From that day on, the issue took on a serious nature. It became a topic of discussion and we reached this result after a short while.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, if Iraq refuses to accept Resolution No 598 now that Iran has, then what will happen?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This will be to our benefit, if it does happens, because the demagogic weapon will be taken out of Iraq's hands. The world will not be able to say that Iran did not accept the resolution. We will not have lost anything. We will continue the same war, in the same way, and maybe more intensely, and we will tell our people: This is the situation. Even though we have accepted, apparently the enemy has evil intentions. Then it will become absolutely clear to everyone that they have evil intentions, contrary to what they say. Our nation will become more serious. We will keep our forces on the battlefronts until that time.

In particular, we ask the many basijis who went to the battlefronts during the recent dispatch on 28 June to remain prepared. The time for their return is not now. It is possible that what you mentioned may happen. The difference is that those who, for instance, wanted to impose an arms embargo on us because we did not accept the resolution should logically impose the embargo on Iraq from now on. Those threats, propaganda, everything will stop. I think if the outcome of our move is that Iraq does not accept and the war resumes its serious nature, then this will clarify things for our nation and make it more united. This will be a positive step toward the military solution of the war.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, hearing the news on the acceptance of the resolution, the people [words indistinct.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I said that we had not reached this decision earlier. After the downing of the airplane, serious discussions started. Until then we did not even discuss the issue. With Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's message, we began to consider the matter seriously. When the imam reached a decision, he immediately ordered us to hold the meeting, which we did yesterday. We received the imam's message yesterday, and made a decision yesterday afternoon. Last night we declared our position and informed the UN secretary general. Immediately afterward, we informed the people.

In other words, we did not delay the announcement to the people for even a moment. If you mean that we should have paved the way—there was nothing to pave the way for. We do not think that our people need to have the way paved for them. They consider the imam's view as the best way. The people fought with reason, in accordance with the imam's view and, also in accordance with the imam's view, they will accept the cease-fire with reason if they have to.

Karrubi Comments on UN Resolution 598

LD1907112888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Karrubi, deputy speaker of the Majlis, said in today's open Majlis session that the acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 598 by Iran is an ultimatum to the alert consciences of the world and to international organizations and to those who have called us warmongers. This act by Iran is a litmus test for the international organizations, and we must see how they will react to world public opinion.

In connection with the official acceptance of Resolution No 598 by Iran, he emphasized that the legitimacy of these official actions comes from the imam's leadership. His guidelines have always helped us, and certainly these guidelines have safeguarded the interests of the ummah and of Islam. Mr Karrubi added that acceptance of this resolution is based on the interests of Islam and of the revolution, and people should be prepared to guard the blessed blood of our martyrs.

He said that the conspiracies against the Islamic Republic existed before the start of the imposed war, and that these conspiracies will not stop. People should be aware of the large extent of the conspiracies taking place against the Islamic Republic. The deputy speaker added that so far all the blood which has been shed in the war has been for Islam and for the Islamic Revolution, and the acceptance of Resolution No 598, too, seeks to preserve this revolution. We are performing our duty in light of the imam's guidelines.

In conclusion, he stressed that the fighters and the families of the martyrs should guard the revolution more than ever.

The Central News Unit reports that in today's open session a bill on the accession of the Islamic Republic of Iran Government to the Vienna convention, concerning the interrelation of governments and international organizations, was discussed and ratified. Furthermore, the bill on the establishment of a center for political and international studies received its first reading, and after speeches by those in favor and those against the bill, the rest of the debate on this bill was postponed until the next open session.

In this session the report of the Majlis investigation committee about the credentials of the deputy from Bukan was submitted and approved.

The Majlis will hold its next open session at 0800 on Thursday, 21 July.

Arab League Envoy Comments

LD1807213888 Kuwait KUNA in English 1922 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Excerpt] New York, 18 July (KUNA)—[Passage omitted] Arab League Ambassador Clovis Maksoud in a statement described the Iranian announcement as a welcome development.

"We hope that this acceptance is followed forthwith a [as received] readiness to implement its provisions in order that the cease-fire at the internationally recognised borders prepares the grounds for full implementation of the resolution."

He said time was now propitious to set in motion the mechanism for immediate compliance by all parties.

Maksoud expressed confidence that the secretary-general would seize this moment to expedite the process setting up the mechanism and to take the necessary measures to bring forward the peace that has long eluded the international community.

"It is hoped that the coincidence of the first anniversary of the adoption of Resolution No 598 will show the world that the U.N. is credible and its resolutions are respected and deliverable," Maksoud said.

"The holy feast of Al-Adha can be celebrated now with gratification as the two Islamic peoples, Iranian and Iraqi, can focus on the real priorities of reconstruction and development, as well as peace and stability," the Arab League official said.

Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Mahallati said a cease-fire would actually work to Iraq's advantage if prisoners of war were exchanged. "We have close to 50,000 Iraqi POW's, they have around 20,000.

In Washington, meanwhile, a State Department spokesman said when asked if the U.S. would withdraw its naval forces that "appropriate action" would be taken in due time.

In California where President Reagan is vacationing, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater was more direct If peace does come to the Gulf, he said, the U.S. would consider ending its escort tanker service.

Commentary on 'New Policy'

NC1907071088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Central News Unit research group commentary]

[Text] As has been reported in the news, the Islamic Republic of Iran has sent a message to Mr Perez de Cuellar announcing that in order to assist the UN secretary general in establishing security on the basis of justice, Iran has officially accepted UN Resolution No No 598.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's new policy was formulated with particular regard to the current war conditions and its duty to preserve the Islamic country of Iran. It is in the interests of Islam today that a fresh stand be adopted in the face of the multifarious plots being hatched and implemented against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Today the enemies of Islam have rallied all their resources to portray Iran as the warmonger and to pursue the nefarious aims they have been fostering since the war was imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran. This recent move has created conditions necessary for their implementation by exerting extensive and multilateral pressure.

There is no doubt that the protection of Islam and the Islamic Republic is the highest obligation of each and every citizen of the Muslim Iranian nation. All actions of devout Muslims must be in the interest of Islam and performed accordingly. All positive actions are carried out with this sole objective: to protect Islam and uphold the divine word. The General Staff Headquarters has noted this in a clear and succinct statement: Undoubtedly, valor and the defense of Islam are displayed not only on battlefields; they can also be seen in the adoption of a new policy which can change the situation in favor of Islam and to foil plots. This is a different form of valor.

In any case, the adoption of this new policy is certainly not to be interpreted as indifference to the aggressive nature of the enemies of Islam. Islam has always been and will continue to be the target of oppressors. Therefore, strengthening the fronts and bolstering our combat capability and the steadfastness of the Islamic nation should always be a priority of our country's programs. The strength and combat capability of a country can discourage enemies from continuing their aggression.

Nation Called To Defend Islam

LD1907115388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1048 GMT 19 Jul 88

Political commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, in a letter to the UN secretary general, the Islamic Republic of Iran formally declared its acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 598 concerning the Iraq-Iran war.

The announcement of Iran's new policy, which stems from the new conditions, and which is in line with the sacred defense and the efforts to safeguard Islam and the Islamic Revolution, made a big impact all over the world last night and this morning. Many heads of state welcomed Iran's new position. [passage omitted]

As the General Command Headquarters statement says, our revolutionary nation follows its great imam and thinks only of its divine duty. It carries out its duty in various situations, as directed by the imam, in the interests of Islam and to safeguard the Islamic homeland. Undoubtedly, the aggressive nature of the arrogant enemies of Islam is interminable.

Therefore, the Muslim nation of Iran, which is committed to attaining its Islamic goals, must always be present on the arena of the sacred defense of the Islamic Revolution. It should be particularly ready and equipped on the battlefronts, so that it can crush any aggression or move by the enemies of Islam.

Iranian Toilers on Acceptance of UN Resolution

LD1807221288 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] You, the peace-seeking, aware, and determined people of Iran. The resolute and glorious will of you, the nation's peace-loving and free people of the nation, the ceaseless struggles of the revolutionary, democratic and peace-seeking forces, and the extensive and continuous efforts of progressive and peace-loving governments, assemblies, and organizations of the world have finally achieved victory over the warmongers of the Islamic regime of Iran by forcing the regime of the rule by jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] to accept Security Council Resolution No 598.

Although this victory is only a first step toward the total elimination of the plague of war and destruction from our country, it is a great step, which confirms the unbeatable nature of the will of the masses, while carrying hope for the flourishing of their aspirations.

The Islamic Republic's antipeople regime—which is also opposed to nationalism—while shedding the blood of so many of our compatriots, has been forced to bow to the righteous demand of the people following the defeat of its policy of continuing the war. The logical, clear, and firm demand made by all the revolutionary, peace-seeking, and freedom-loving forces of Iran and the world, follows the repulsing of the enemy's initial aggression. In the year since Security Council Resolution No 598 was issued, these forces have emphasized the necessity of its implementation.

The regime now tries to present its conceding to the will of the people as actually the foresight of the jurisconsult, and God's will. This is being done to escape the destructive anger of the masses over the regime's crimes. In this way the regime tries to exonerate itself from the responsibility of shedding the blood of hundreds of thousands of youths, and from the psychological, cultural, and material effects of the war on our country. The regime's acceptance of Resolution No 598 is the first victorious step for the people. However, at any moment it may initiate devious conspiracies and warmongering tricks.

Therefore, under the present delicate circumstances, the regime, by way of continuing peace-seeking struggles, should be forced to stop the war immediately and to implement an immediate cease-fire on the battlefronts, while starting political negotiations aimed at achieving a lasting peace.

In other words, the regime's real acceptance of Resolution No 598 depends heavily on the continuation of the peace-seeking struggles of the masses. This glorious achievement of the people must not be allowed to be turned to the regime's diplomatic and political advantage, facilitating its escape from the pressure of the peace-seeking people of Iran and the world.

Resolution No 598 must be implemented immediately, in full, and a firm and lasting peace must be established for the peoples of Iraq and Iran, and throughout this tense region.

Victory to the struggle and the resolve of the masses. Long live peace. Death to the warmongers.

Diplomatic Ties With Canada Resumed 18 Jul

LD1807171088 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA—Iran and Canada today signed an agreement according to which the two countries will resume their relations. The agreement was inked by Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani and visiting Canadian Assistant Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Marc Brault.

Speaking at the session Larijani said vast potentials exist for the expansion of Iran-Canada ties and cooperation in the economic, industrial, scientific and political areas. "Inking of the agreement would prepare the ground for expansion of such ties," he said.

Larijani said in the light of the past relations between the two countries and with due respect to their mutual interests, Iran and Canada will reopen their embassies in each others' capitals.

Iran and Canada broke relations in early 1980 after Ottawa tried to interfere in the issue of U.S. hostages, taken by Muslim students following Imam Khomeyni's path.

The Ottawa government for what it described "importance of the Islamic Republic in international scenes" expressed willingness several months ago to resume relations with Iran, and Iran's Embassy in Ottawa in turn made efforts for normalization of relations.

Marc Brault after signing the agreement said his country should have an active embassy in Tehran in order to promote mutual ties. "Tehran-Ottawa ties have a promising prospect," he added.

The Canadian official also thanked the Danish ambassador in Tehran Ib Britto Andreasen for his help and cooperation in normalizing Iran-Canada ties.

Meanwhile, Larijani turning to Iran's acceptance of Security Council's Resolution 598 (announced earlier today), said Iran's position on the issue is in line with the U.N. chief's efforts. The Islamic Republic is committed to regional security and tranquillity, he said.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, he said Iran has regularly cooperated with Javier Perez de Cuellar for implementation of the resolution and that Iran's stance in this regard leaves no room for doubt in its good intention. "Iran's commitment to regional security and stability has been the ground for making such a decision," Larijani noted.

The U.S. chief has a collective plan for implementation of the resolution, and this depends upon further steps, Larijani said.

He reiterated that the (Iraqi-imposed) was has jeopardized the region, and international success depends on extraordinary measures to establish a regional peace. He expressed hope that after announcement of the Iranian stance peace and tranquillity would materialise in the region with the help of the United Nations.

Anniversary of U.S. 'Mission' Marked by Failure

LD1807165688 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 18, IRNA—The increase in U.S. forces to 15,000 military personnel on board 27 Navy ships in the Persian Gulf has perceivably failed in its mission one year on, with shipping attacks doubling and civilian airliners now under threat.

It was one year ago this week that the U.S. embarked upon a massive build-up from its initial force of 3,000 men on six vessels and Washington is now seen trying to pass the blame for its failure onto its overstretched fleet and inadequate and inappropriate hardware.

The downing of an Iranian Airbus on July 3 killing all 290 passengers on board was the final U.S. debacle and according to THE LONDON TIMES from Washington, even among Republican congressmen there is now "considerable disenchantment" over the whole venture.

"The United States finds itself caught in an open-ended, expensive and controversial commitment that has demonstrably failed to stem the tanker war," it said.

The anniversary of the extravagant U.S. build-up coincides with Iran's moves at the U.N. to force Washington to accept its full responsibility in the downing of the passenger plane and withdraw from the Persian Gulf.

In secret testimony made to congress in February but just released in Washington, head of U.S. Central Command, U.S. Area Commander General George Crist is listed making excuses for the Navy's failure, which he attributed to a deficiency in America's huge resources.

He maintained that when he took over command he was surprised to find the U.S. was "deficient" in appropriate hardware, had not built suitable boats for the region and even vessels made for Vietnam were strictly riverboats and not designed for open seas.

Crist conceded that the military was caught flat-footed about 50-year old mines and even when it wanted to use small attack helicopters against gunboats, ships were "not designed" to take them.

George Crist is the same man who ordered the unmanly shooting down of the Iran air passenger-liner over the Strait of Hormuz on July 3, a bare 24 hours after his provocative statement that he was eager for an excuse to pick up a fight with Iran.

All 290 passengers and crew aboard, including 66 children were martyred, when the USS Vincennes, which had taken up a position right underneath the flight course (Amber 59) fired two missiles at Iran Air 655 on its way to Dubayy.

Editorial on Seeking Support Against U.S.

LD1507185188 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Jul 88 pp 1-2

[Unattributed editorial: "A Look at Two Viewpoints on Confronting the Recent U.S. Crime"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] It is now 3 days since the incident, and international analysts are sitting and waiting for a reaction from the Islamic Republic of Iran. There are some who believe that, because of the present war circumstances and because the doors to world politics and diplomacy are opening up for Iran through Western Europe, and keeping in mind the world's hatred of the United States for this inhuman act, the leaders of the Islamic Republic are not very eager o seek revenge on the United States. These same people say that Iran's leaders link the incident with the previous crises in the Gulf, the criminal war waged by Iraq against Iran, and the increasing U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf.

Thus the Iranian leadership is inviting world public opinion to make its rightful judgment on Iran's position in the imposed war and the consequences of the dangerous U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf. These analysts point to the Islamic Republic's current efforts in the world's diplomatic corridors to persuade the international family to support Iran's position against the United States.

Other analysts are evaluating the various effects of the Airbus tragedy on Iranian public opinion. They look at the different views within the Iranian regime and point to what are termed radical elements. They have reached the firm conclusion that the Islamic Republic of Iran will undertake hostile actions in response to recent U.S. actions in the Persian Gulf. The cries for retaliation that have poured forth from the Iranian leaders, as well as from the people are seen by this group of analysts as proof of their beliefs. [passage omitted]

The side that recommends calm and sensible diplomatic steps to achieve the rights of Third World nations in international dealings is like a slow cooker, which means nothing to those who are hungry and waiting for food. On the other hand, the view that backs hostilities and even points the way reminds one of a soccer match at which fans from both sides assault each other.

The truth of the matter is that Western circles, notably the Americans, want the Islamic Republic to choose one of these methods to confront the latest U.S. crime in the Persian Gulf. If only diplomatic means are used—which is what the West wants—then the Islamic Republic will be defeated in the halls of diplomacy. If the second path is chosen, then the label of terrorist will be hung around the Islamic Republic's neck. That way the Iranians will remain politically isolated and the United States will lessen the wave of anger now directed against it. Some Western circles regard Iran's reaction within the framework of these two methods to be the best thing.

Now, it must be said that Iran can choose two parallel and logical paths in its anti-imperialist stance. On the one hand, Iranian foreign policy should not ignore or release the wave of anger directed against the U.S. crime by the international family of nations. The present circumstances are the best conditions. Diplomatic positions must be most carefully weighed, because the world is ready to hear the justice-seeking message of the Iranian Revolution about Washington's undeclared war against Iran with the help of adventure-seeking elements, such as the regime in Baghdad; the rights of the Iranian people with regard to the imposed war; the aims of the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf; and the urgent need for the region's people to establish peace by removing war-mongering elements such as the Baghdad regime and securing the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf.

Undoubtedly, the connection will be made between the tragedy in the Persian Gulf and the fundamental danger of the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, and this presence will in turn be linked with its fundamental cause: Washington's support for the Baghdad regime in the war against Iran.

The Islamic Republic's diplomatic machinery must move faster now to ease the way to a better understanding by the international family of the need to end the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf and the adventure-seeking of the Baghdad rulers by seeing justice done.

Alongside this method the Islamic Republic must threaten U.S. interests in its areas of influence by using its right of self-defense in reply to the recent crime by the Reagan administration. In this way, if the leaders in Washington refuse to agree to a conciliatory withdrawal from the Persian Gulf, they will be held responsible for the drastic results of their continued adventures in the Persian Gulf. These two moves are one and the same. To ignore on one side will ruin the chances for the other. The Islamic Republic must also build its path of anti-imperialist struggle in all political, economic, and cultural ways, so that the Muslim and revolutionary forces can continue on their path without any obstacles.

The move by the Third Majlis yesterday to approve a strategy of unending struggle against imperialism is worthy of praise, because this action will prepare all facets of life in the country for a struggle against imperialism.

While the United States gets approval from its highest law-making agencies, the Congress and the Senate [as published], to commit acts of aggression against deprived peoples by sending in military forces, and while this action is regarded worldwide as the accepted norm, there is no other way to fight this and gain independence other than by a deliberate strategy that must be obeyed in all fields.

Delegation Departs for Talks in Romania

LD1607151388 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—An Iranian delegation led by deputy minister of plan and budget Mehdi Mir Mo'ezi left here for Bucharest to take part in the joint Iran-Romania economic cooperation commission.

The delegation includes representatives from ministries of commerce, industries, heavy industries, agriculture, foreign affairs, oil, mines and metals and from the Central Bank.

The delegation is to draft a new letter of understanding to be signed between Iran and Romania. Iran's minister of plan and budget Ma'sud Roghani Zanjani is to leave for Bucharest next week to sign the letter of understanding.

Export of Iran's oil and non-oil products and ways for expansion of trade ties through buy-back system will be reviewed with Romanian officials. Members of the Iranian delegation are to inspect Romanian industries.

The joint commission is to be held July 17-22 with an agenda are on industrial and commercial cooperation and export of oil.

Iran-Romania trade ties have risen considerably since the Islamic countries [as received] increased to more than 700 million dollars annually between the Iranian years of 1358 and 1364 (March 21, 1979- March 20, 1985).

Iran and Romania cooperate with each other in the manufacture of tractors and in other technologies.

Majlis By-Elections Scheduled for 29 Oct
LD1807230588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] The midterm elections to the Islamic Majlis for 16 constituencies will be held on 29 October 1988. According to a Central News Unit report, a statement issued by the Interior Minister Mohtashemi says:

The midterm elections of the third Islamic Majlis will be held in the constituencies of Aligudarz, Bandar-e 'Abbas, Qeshm, Abu Musa, (Bo'in Zahra), Avaj, Bijar, Talesh, Hashtpar, Jiroft, (Khomeyni Shahr), Marvin, Darreh Gaz, Felavarjan, Kord Kuy, Torkaman, Kuhdahst, (Chegini), Gorgan, Golpayegan, Khvonsar, Lenjan, Masjed-e Soleyman, and Borujerd.

The statement stresses that registration of the candidates will begin on 28 September and will last 7 days.

Majlis Approves Freight Transport Bills
LD1707192388 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—The Majlis Foreign Policy Commission in its Sunday's session, also attended by government representatives, approved two law bills concerning transfer of goods between Iran and a number of foreign countries.

The first bill concerns an agreement between the Islamic Republic and Turkey on transfer of goods by land while the other is related to road transport of both freight and passengers between Iran and Yugoslavia.

Mobilization Forces Leave for Battlefronts
LD1807193788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Summary] Large numbers of Mobilization of the Oppressed forces left Do Gonbadan and Bandar-e Lengeh for the war fronts this morning. They were seen off by local inhabitants.

Air Force Commander Denies Iraq Downed Plane
LD1907122788 Tehran IRNA in English 1223 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—An operational commander of the Islamic Republic Air Force today categorically denied an Iraqi claim that it had shot down an Iranian jet fighter this morning.

The commander said the claim is aimed at making good on the severe set-backs suffered by Iraqi warplanes during dog-fights with Iranian fighter planes over the Persian Gulf Tuesday morning.

During Iraqi air attacks on some economic centers in Iran, two enemy warplanes were shot down in dogfights with Iranian jet fighters and a third was blasted out of the sky by anti-aircraft fire, he said.

The Air Force commander said that all Iranian fighter planes returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out their missions today.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Planes Violate Ahvaz Airspace
LD1907074688 Tehran IRNA in English 0738 GMT 19 July 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 19, IRNA—Iraqi planes violated airspace of this provincial capital Tuesday morning. They were intercepted by heavy fire of the Iranian air defence gunners.

Iraqi Jets Bomb Southern Sites
LD1907085388 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—Several industrial-labour centers in southern Iran were attacked by Iraqi planes Tuesday morning.

A number of workers have reportedly been martyred and injured and some damage inflicted on the centers.

Planes Attack Nuclear Plant
LD1907102688 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—Anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian combatants shot down three Iraqi warplanes as several of them attacked some industrial units, including Bushehr nuclear power station, in Bushehr and Khuzestan Province today.

Several were martyred and wounded and some damage was inflicted on the power stations and other units. The pilots of the downed Iraqi planes were also killed.

The Iraqi planes also violated the air space of Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, at 08:40 hours (05:10 GMT) today, but were forced to flee when facing anti-aircraft fire of the Muslim forces.

Forces Placed on Alert
LD1907110388 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—Iraq bombed some non-military and economic centers in Iran Tuesday in continuation of its aggressions against the Islamic Republic.

The savage Iraqi air raids were carried out just a day after Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Security Council's Resolution 598 calling for a cease-fire in the nearly 8-year-old conflict.

Today's bombing of a nuclear plant in Bushehr and a petrochemical complex in Bandar Emam [name as received], both in southern Iran, by Iraqi warplanes once again unveiled the aggressive and war mongering nature of the Ba'thist regime ruling in Iraq.

The Iraqi air raids warrant a state of alertness by the Iranian army throughout the fronts.

The Bushehr nuclear plant and the unfinished Iran-Japan petrochemical complex at Bandar Emam port suffered some damage as a result of the Iraqi attacks which were done in violation of all international conventions.

The bombing of the petrochemical complex came after Japan's announcement on Tuesday that it was prepared to resume talks with Iranian officials for completing the unfinished project. Japan has not yet reacted to the Iraqi air raid.

According to informed military sources, two Iraqi warplanes were shot down in dog fights with Iranian fighter planes while a third was blasted out of the sky by anti-aircraft fire.

Two other economic centers in Iran were also bombed by Iraqi warplanes.

Communique No 3,267

LD1807185888 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jets effectively carried out their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Sunday, providing aircover for the Navy and reconnoitering 46 vessels of various types, said a military communique here Monday.

The 3267th Joint Staff communique said that Iranian naval units in addition to controlling shipping yesterday, carried out patrol missions in the territorial and international waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Sunday as a result of which Iraqi troops sustained heavy losses in men and equipment.

Heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants silenced fire of Iraqi tanks in Mehren, western fronts, and forced Iraqi troops to retreat east of Al-'Amarah yesterday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in zones of their influence yesterday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

Hyderabad Situation Reported 'Peaceful' 18 Jul

BK1807155988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] At a meeting with the local administration in Hyderabad today, Acting Governor of Sind General, Retired, Rahimuddin Khan discussed the incidents that took place in the city yesterday. He also visited the hospital where he inquired about the condition of the city mayor, Aftab Ahmad Sheikh, who was seriously injured yesterday. The hospital authorities said the mayor's condition is improving.

The acting governor said those people who are attempting to create problems will be firmly dealt with. The people involved in the attack on the city mayor will be accounted for and those who have tried to disturb law and order will not be shown any leniency. The acting governor said efforts have begun to bring the people of various sections closer and to create a more cordial atmosphere, a step necessary for progress and prosperity.

No curfew relaxation was announced in the curfew-bound areas of Hyderabad today. Barring a few minor incidents, the overall situation in the curfew-bound as well as non-curfew areas remained quiet and peaceful. The curfew will be relaxed from 0700-0900 in the curfew-bound areas of Hyderabad and Latifabad tomorrow. Official sources told our Hyderabad correspondent that the situation in the interior areas of the district remained completely normal today.

At a meeting in Kotri, prominent people from all walks of life pledged to work toward promoting a spirit of harmony and brotherhood. Participants in the meeting gave assurances for their full cooperation with the administration in maintaining peace and order.

3 Killed in Larkana

BK1907024688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Larkana said that several armed men attacked several people on the outskirts of the town yesterday evening. One person died on the spot while two others succumbed to their injuries in the hospital. The two others are now out of danger. The press note added that the culprits have been arrested and their weapons seized.

Patrolling has been intensified and the situation is under control.

Gandhi's Statement on Afghanistan Assailed

BK1807074188 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Hussain Haqani commentary]

[Text] Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has repeated his assertions that his government was worried over the prospect of an Islamic government coming into power in Afghanistan.

Addressing a press conference at the end of a 3-day visit to Spain, Mr Gandhi said he wanted religion to be kept out of politics. His statement was accompanied by the expression of the desire that his attitude regarding Islam should be observed by all nations of South Asia. The Indian prime minister is obviously entitled to personal views regarding religion and politics, but he has no locus standi to tell people of other countries what ideology they should or should not adopt.

Pakistan, which has supported the right of self-determination for the Afghan people throughout their ordeal of (?foreign) military intervention, has had a principled stand regarding Afghanistan's future. We support the establishment of a government acceptable to the Afghan people, reflecting their right of self-determination.

In Pakistan's view, it is up to the Afghans to choose the form or system of government desirable for their country. Indications from leaders of public opinion and the Afghan freedom struggle are that the future government in Kabul will be an Islamic one. But as far as Pakistan is concerned, it has no intention of interfering in the Afghans' choice of their future course as a nation.

Mr Gandhi's repeated assertions that an Islamic or, as he called it, a fundamentalist government in Kabul is unacceptable to him. They indicate a desire to influence the ideological direction of Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops, as well as to express displeasure over Islamic resurgence in South Asia.

These statements are clearly a violation of the concept of national solidarity and the right of self-determination of nations and people. The Indian prime minister should recognize that the Afghans have an inalienable right to choose their own system of government and if they seek inspiration from Islam in doing so, it is not anyone else's business. As we (?fervently) support the Afghan freedom struggle for 8 years, India in particular has no standing to tell the Afghans how they should govern themselves and what position they should adopt toward Islam.

DAWN Notes Muslim League Leadership Crisis

BK1607111588 Karachi DAWN in English
11 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, July 10—Adviser to the President on Political Affairs, Brig (Retd) Mohammad Asghar, has said every effort is being made to resolve the leadership crisis within the Pakistan Muslim League [PML] and to unite this party.

Answering questions from newsmen at a dinner party in Rawalpindi on Sunday night, Brig (Retd) Asghar hoped that the leadership crisis would be overcome very soon. He confirmed that Pir Pagara, President of one faction of the Muslim League, had held two meetings with President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq during his stay in the Federal capital. He told newsmen that Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo had left the decision of the PML's leadership to Pir Pagara.

Brig (Retd) Asghar agreed with a questioner that the position of Pakistan Muslim League had been damaged with the dissolution of the Assemblies and it would have to face a tough fight during the forthcoming general elections. However, he hoped the Muslim League would restore its image before the elections as it had done a good job in rural areas of the country.

Asked whether Pir Pagara would meet the President again during his stay in the Federal capital, he said "Pir Sahib has continuous contact with the President".

Questioned whether the announcement of election schedule was linked with the PML leadership crisis, he said there was no such thing. The President, he added, had already declared that election schedule would be announced within 15 days. But he hastened to add that the two Leagues would be united before the election announcement.

The adviser to the President on Political Affairs refused to comment when asked about the rumours circulating in the Federal capital that National People's Party [NPP] chief Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi had a meeting with the President a few days ago and that the talks between the two centered on the PML-NPP cooperation during next elections.

He said every party had its own thinking adding that of course there is no hope that NPP will join hands with the Pakistan People's Party. "I neither deny nor confirm the meeting of Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi with the President", he added when pressed further.

Answering another question, he said that option for the Muslim League to cooperate with some other party during the elections was always there. "If we felt any need of cooperation with some other political party during the elections, we will go for it," he added.

Answering another question regarding Cabinet meeting on Sunday, he said election schedule was not specifically discussed in the meeting.

He informed the newsmen that President Ziaul Haq was "interested" in the welfare of Muslim League. Asked whether the President was also aspiring for the Presidentship of the PML, he said as far as holding the office of the party was concerned, there were some constitutional hurdles.

Asked who will be the next President of the party if Pir Pagara and Mr Junejo both step down from their posts, Mr Asghar said: "It has yet to be decided and only central council of the party can decide it."